

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO

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Hmm. I think you want one of the regular tellers.

PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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Dental Care In Nursing Homes Can Be Difficult To Arrange

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother has Alzheimer's. She has been in a nursing home for 10 years. I feel sorry for her because she can't verbalize that her teeth are killing her, but I can see the pain in her face and hear her grind her teeth. When I asked her if her teeth hurt, she rubbed my arm up and down, which I took to mean yes. I asked for her to be seen

by a doctor, but at this time we have to wait at least six weeks to see one.

Something I would like people to know is there is little dental care available in nursing homes. Because of improved dental care by the general public, many more people arrive in nursing homes with their teeth intact than they used to. This sounds good, but the problem is that **DEAR ABBY** patients often refuse to allow anyone to assist them with oral hygiene. Eventually they may become too frail to withstand the stress of surgery or other treatment that comes with failing teeth.

As I understand it, not many dentists are willing to shoulder the extra challenge of caring for this "difficult" population, or the red tape of getting paid for the care of patients in nursing homes.

It is very important to take care of our teeth as we age. Once we or our loved one enters a nursing home, we need to continue their dental hygiene to the best of our abilities. We can help overworked staff by encouraging our loved ones to brush and floss. Take them out for a checkup every six months.

I can't stand a toothache for a day. I wouldn't wish that pain on anyone, especially someone with Alzheimer's who cannot ask for help. I wish I had been more aware. Please let the public know how important this is. — NANCY C. IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR NANCY: As you noted, people are keeping their teeth longer. We now know that a healthy mouth is important for good over-

IACQUELINE 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 Gemini and a Moon in Scorpio if born before 2:39 p.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Sagittarius

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015:

This year you open up to many different approaches. You are willing to do the work to achieve your long-term goals. You also become more in tune with the people in your immediate circle. If you are single, through mid-August you'll attract several admirers. One of them could be significant to your life. If you are attached, your ability to communicate evolves and enhances your bond. You and your significant other will enjoy each other far more than you have in the recent past. Come fall, you will add to the quality of your life together. SAGITTARIUS often challenges you!

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)

★ ★ ★ ★ Communication will be most successful in the morning. A gentle touch could end nearly any problem. You might want to reach out for more

all health, no matter what your age. In addition to dentists, there are now dental hygienists in many states who can provide care for people in nursing homes and homebound patients. Some specialize in treating the developmentally disabled and

"difficult" populations. Specially licensed dental hygienists can provide services outside of the dental office in the states that allow it, and can refer the patient to a dentist for further service. In the United States, individual states determine the scope of practice for providers, which includes what types of services dental hygienists may provide in that state.

Several states are currently working to expand their oral care workforce and improve access to care — in part to meet the growing aging population who are retaining

their teeth. In West Virginia, dental hygienists are permitted to deliver care in nursing homes and a variety of other settings. If you have additional questions, the American Dental Hygienists' Association (adha.org) can provide further state-specific information on this subject.

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.

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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aware of what someone lets slip, and try not to take it personally. Lighten up the moment, and let your imagination flow. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★ ★ ★ Return calls in the morning -- you have a lot of ground to cover. Schedule as much as you can for later in week. You could be surprised by what comes out in a conversation. Focus on a domestic matter; the issue only will get bigger if you don't. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You will need to handle a personal matter before the day grows old. You won't want this issue to undermine your thinking. Listen to what you are hearing. A conversation might need to be revisited in the afternoon, when others can hear you better. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★ ★ ★ Handle anything important in the morning, when you feel more upbeat. Your ability to get past a problem allows a misunderstanding to melt away. You could be overwhelmed by a choice you have to make. Use caution with spending. Tonight Pay bills first.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$ As off as you might feel in the morning, you will feel much better by midafternoon. Take your time getting started, and worry less about your choices and where you are going. Laughte



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON





GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS





ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME!



SHE'S JUST JOINED

THE HYSTERICAL SOCIETY.



Zoe's

balloon

teedback from someone who is more knowledge able than you are. Tonight: Put on your headphones and listen to great music.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ Others will come toward you before you even make it out the door this morning. Eye a financial arrangement with cynicism, and don't jump into any legal agreements right now. You might feel as though something is a good deal, but it likely isn't. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

* * * * Don't allow others to distract you. Maintaining this stance will take a lot of self-discipline. You could be challenged by a partner later in the day. You'll wonder what is happening with this person. Stay cool. Keep your opinions to yourself for now. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might be in the position to find out more information about a loved one. Your attitude will help this person reveal him- or herself more completely. Don't get so distracted that you are unable to complete errands or return calls. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might be slow to get going, but once the afternoon hits, you can't be stopped. Be

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



surrounds a loved one whom you care a lot about. Tonight: Let the fun begin!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be faced with a major change you might not have been expecting. Don't worry -- you probably will like what you are seeing. Make fewer judgments, and enjoy the experience. Sometimes it is best to turn off your mind. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might be in the mood to initiate a change. How you plan to handle this matter could vary significantly as the day ages. Success comes to you in the mid-afternoon, once you have accepted what must be done. Tonight: Find a friend and enjoy his or her news.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$ You might be wondering what approach would be best under the present circumstances. You have the ability to see past the obvious and to understand the implications of what is happening. You will need to take the lead in the afternoon. Tonight: A must appearance.

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