

# Happier alone, woman still hasn't divorced

Dear Abby: My mom and my wonderful canine companion passed away within six months. My husband has battled addiction for years. I discovered the extent of it after I had two small children and was ending our marriage. He went to AA, sobered up and was wonderful for the next 10 years. During that time, we had two more children.



JEANNE PHILLIPS

We sacrificed enormously to give them everything, including college educations. Now my children rarely speak to me, and one won't speak to me at all because of politics. My spouse has returned to his addiction. Grief over losing my two best friends has overwhelmed me. Although I am terribly lonely, I suffer terrible social anxiety due to a traumatic incident in my teens.

Six months ago, I moved into my mother's home, which is jointly owned by surviving siblings. I love being alone. I keep myself busy, and I am enjoying the most peace I have ever had in my life. I have been diagnosed with PTSD and have had years of therapy. I don't work. My spouse gives me an allowance, but living apart has resulted in my being in debt.

I just want to be left alone, but my spouse controls the purse strings. He doesn't mind the separation because it allows him to continue his addiction. Everything I pursued in my life -- marriage, career, family -- has amounted to nothing. At 62, I'm tired of trying. I take medicine. My internist knows of the trauma I suffered and is good at staying on top

of my mental health. Is my desire to be alone with my pets and limited social interaction OK? - Unsettled in Texas

Dear Unsettled: You state that you and your husband are separated, and that he controls the purse strings. It's time to talk with a family law attorney about what your financial picture would look like if you were to divorce. I wouldn't want to live alone at 62, but if that's the lifestyle you prefer, I won't judge.

Dear Abby: My wife's family holds gatherings several times a year for various holidays. I'm always invited and warmly welcomed. Over the last 30 years, their family has grown, with many grandchildren and now great-grandchildren. We always arrive before the scheduled noon meal to chat and socialize.

The patriarch is known for being eager to eat at the appointed time, but for the past three or four years, the matriarch has insisted no one begin eating until the final guest arrives -- often 30 minutes to an hour late. As a guest, I'd never bring this up, not even to my wife, but I'm curious about your thoughts: Is it good manners to make those who arrive on time wait for those who can't seem to? - Famished family

Dear Abby: No, it is not. The host should make every effort to begin the meal at the time mentioned in the invitation. Even so, latecomers should not be made to feel guilty; the in-progress meal will convey the message louder than words. The host should simply extend a warm welcome and a plate before returning to the more respectful guests.

Contact **Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

# KEELIN

From Page C1

No one has told us why. The warnings come from AI's own creators who seem unable to control it or fix it, and are looking to us to do something. Or perhaps they are just letting the masses know, on which they also profit.

Eugene Peterson has written "We are always drifting off into the impersonal. It is easier and less demanding. But it is also demeaning and estranging."

"Always and everywhere in Scripture our attention is brought back to the central fact: God is a person; God makes persons; God remakes persons. A person like you. A person like me."

"It is not through nations and armies, not through movements and ideas, not through laboratories and machines and computers that God does his primary work. It is through persons."

I would like to add that God exists eternally in the nature of three Persons. The Godhead— Father, Son, and Spirit—is the embodiment of personhood.

Each has distinctiveness and cooperating will.

Each personifies the desire for communion, with compassion, mercy, and love.

Together, they are One God.

"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers,

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intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone—for Kings and all those in authority so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity." 1 Tim 1:3

Godliness and dignity can only be reflected in the life of a Divinely Created, and then re-Created, person.

If the Son dwells in our hearts, we will be rooted and grounded in love.

Only then, in humility and in our humanity, will we spread out to invest in the souls of our fellow man.

This is pleasing to God who desires all to come into the knowledge of truth. Then we will know a love that surpasses knowledge, and a peace that passes our under-

standing.

The ground is level where we all stand.

Yet, Heaven is open, and angels descend and ascend, to aid any person who believes in the Son of Man.

Together, with all the saints, we embrace a greater Power, with a sweeter Spirit, than the powers-that-be, who dance with the prince of the power of the air. (Eph. 2:2)

"Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do His just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD." Zeph. 2:3

STACY KEELIN can be reached at [shepherdantidavineyard@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdantidavineyard@gmail.com)

# ASHLAND

From Page C1

For generations, its marquee has illuminated Winchester Avenue and welcomed people through its doors. Since opening in 1931, The Paramount has witnessed decades of change in Ashland and throughout our region.

Yet it has remained a reminder of where we have been, a gathering place for where we are and, I believe, an important part of where we are going.

As the new Marketing Director of The Paramount, I have spent my first weeks thinking a great deal about what this building means beyond the performances that happen on its stage.

Its value is historic. It is cultural. It is educational. And it is economic.

When people come downtown for a concert or performance, they do more than purchase a ticket.

They eat in our restaurants. They visit our businesses. They stay in our hotels.

They discover Ashland, sometimes for the first time and sometimes all over again. A vibrant arts and entertainment destination contributes to a vibrant downtown, and The Paramount has an opportunity to play an increasingly important role in that growth.

But its greatest value may be harder to measure.

It is found in the memories made here.

It is the child stepping onto The Paramount stage for the first time.

It is the family returning year after year for a favorite tradition.

It is a sold-out audience singing along with an artist they have loved for decades.

It is the volunteers, patrons, performers, businesses and community partners who have invested their time, resources and hearts into ensuring that this historic theater continues to have a future.

This past weekend offered a particularly meaningful reminder of that connection as we welcomed Wynonna Judd home to Ashland.

There was something incredibly special about seeing our community come together to celebrate an artist whose story began right here. The excitement surrounding her return wasn't simply about a concert.

It was about hometown pride, shared history and the realization that extraordinary stories can begin in places like ours. That energy is something we want to build upon.

There is tremendous opportunity ahead for The Paramount.

Our upcoming calendar reflects our desire to create a theater where more people can find something that speaks to them: concerts, comedy, family entertainment, theatrical productions, community events and experiences that bring

people together.

We want long-time patrons to continue feeling at home here while also welcoming people who may be walking through our doors for the very first time.

We also understand that building The Paramount's next chapter requires more than filling a calendar.

It requires relationships. It requires listening. It requires trust.

Trust isn't something any organization can simply ask a community to give. It is something that must be earned, and continually re-earned, through consistency, transparency, responsiveness and the way we show up for the people we serve.

That relationship with our community is being reforged, and I am grateful to everyone who has chosen to be a part of it.

Every ticket purchased helps sustain The Paramount. Every event shared on social media extends our reach. Every

sponsorship, donation and volunteer hour strengthens our foundation. Every person who tells a friend, "You should see what's happening at The Paramount," helps introduce someone new to this historic theater.

Ultimately, The Paramount doesn't belong only to the people who work inside its walls. It belongs to this community. Our responsibility is to be good stewards of what generations before us built while having the courage to imagine what this theater can become for the generations who follow.

There are exciting things ahead: new opportunities, new partnerships, new audiences and many more nights when the lights come down,

JUMBLE

Answer:

STITCH QUENCH ALPACA  
HAMPER REDEEM BRANDY

When her grandfather gave them such a valuable painting, it was —

MUCH APPRECIATED

## ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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the curtain rises and hundreds of people experience something together that they could never experience quite the same way anywhere else.

So, Ashland, thank you.

Thank you for showing up. Thank you for believing in the value of the arts. Thank you for supporting this remarkable piece of our city's history. And thank you to those who are giving The Paramount another look, another visit and another opportunity to earn your trust.

We hope you'll keep

coming through our doors.

Keep bringing your family.

Keep inviting your friends.

Keep telling us what you want to see.

Keep believing with us in what is possible.

The Paramount has been part of Ashland's story for nearly a century.

Together, we have the opportunity to make sure its next chapter is one worth remembering.

VIVIANE KHOUNLAVONG is the Marketing Director for The Paramount.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE  
ORDINANCE NO. 92, 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, AND TONY D. GRUBB, CITY MANAGER, OR MICHELLE VEACH, ASSISTANT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TO RENEW A LINE OF CREDIT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND IN ORDER TO BORROW SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027.

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WHEREAS, the City of Ashland requires additional funds for current operating expenses;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY:  
SECTION 1. That Chuck D. Charles, Mayor, and either Tony D. Grubb, City Manager, or Michelle Veach, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, acting in concert, are hereby authorized to renew a line of credit at Kentucky Farmers Bank on behalf of the City of Ashland in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 at the prevailing interest rate in the Ashland, Kentucky market for adjustable lines of credit for similar enterprises in order to provide for operating expenses for the City of Ashland for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and to execute all requested documents on behalf of the City of Ashland to do so, and to draw upon said line of credit as needed to provide for the regular and orderly payment of operating expenses, said advances are to be repaid from anticipated tax revenues, utility fees and other regularly received City revenues established by ordinance and/or statute.  
SECTION 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflicts only, are hereby repealed.  
SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption, readoption and publication, as required by law.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES  
MAYOR

ATTEST:  
/s/ SUSAN W. MADDIX  
CITY CLERK

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:  
August 13, 2026  
READOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:  
August 27, 2026  
Published: October 10, 2026