

Mother's outbursts suggest something's seriously wrong

DEAR ABBY: My dad died four years ago. He and Mom had many friends and did everything together, including raising nine children.

Mom was always in charge of things. Dad reinforced any decisions she made and vice versa. Since his death, Mom has become progressively more bitter. Eight children are alive today, and we all avoid her if we can. She cries because no one stops by to see her, but if we do, she has a long chore list waiting. I have my own home, work two jobs and don't want what little time I have with her spent working as her slave.

If by chance I feel brave

enough to take her out in public, she embarrasses me with her verbal outbursts. She waits until I start to pay, then asks loudly, "Are you sure you have enough money in the bank to pay for that?" Another time, she stopped a complete stranger, told him I was single and asked if he wanted to know my bra size!

I have tried talking to her. She just gets mad and makes my life even more miserable. Mom will be 70 in a few months. I want to enjoy her and what time we have left together, but I find myself running away from her wrath! I don't want to live without her, but I don't want to live with her,



Dear
ABBY

Syndicated
Columnist

Dear Abby is written by Jeanne Phillips and founded by her mother Pauline Phillips.

either. Please tell me what to do. — DRIVEN AWAY IN GEORGIA

DEAR DRIVEN AWAY: Was your mother always this way? If not, please understand that she may be seriously ill. You have described some symptoms of the onset of dementia. Instead of shunning her, you and your siblings need to encourage her to see her

doctor because she needs a thorough physical and neurological examination. Offering you to a strange man was extremely inappropriate, and her chore list may indicate that she's no longer able to do what's on it for herself.

Your mother NEEDS all of you right now. Go with her to the doctor, and be sure her physician knows what's been going on. It may take insistence from all of you to get her there. Please don't let her down. You have my sympathy and so does she.

...

DEAR ABBY: I am a single dad of three kids. For

the past three years I have promised to take them to Disney World. The first year, my youngest got sick and had to have surgery. The following year, I had a stroke and was laid up for a while. This year, as I was on my way to get the tickets, my car broke down.

I work so hard to give my kids what they need, but I can't give them a vacation they can remember for the rest of their lives. I feel like I have let them down. How can I make this feeling go away?—NO MAGIC FOR US IN OHIO

DEAR NO MAGIC: For one thing, stop beating

yourself up over circumstances that are beyond your control. As a single parent, you are giving your children love, support and memories of a caring father that WILL last a lifetime. You'll take them to Disney World at a time when it is feasible. Until then, forgive yourself for not having been able to deliver on your promise immediately.

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to www.DearAbby.com. For a personal reply, send your letter and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA, 90069.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Today

Dyersburg Regional Medical Center's Senior Circle will host "Derby Day" birthday party and movie day. Party will begin at 1 p.m. and movie at 2 p.m. RSVP by May 19. For more information, call 287-2101.

Bruce Alumni meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. at Bruce Recreation Center.

The Class of 1961 Reunion Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at The Farms. Final plans will be made at this meeting.

Friday, May 27

Memorial Day Weekend Deep Swamp Canoe Floats at Reelfoot Lake State Park today through Sunday, May 29. Departure times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Two adults per canoe and \$20 per canoe. For more information call 731-253-9652.

Saturday, May 28

Relay for Life Bake Sale at Wal-Mart.

Sunday, May 29

There will be at Veteran's Memorial Dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. at Yorkville Cemetery.

Tuesday, May 31

McIver's Grant Public Library will have story time for preschoolers every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, June 1

Monthly blood pressure checks for members

of the Dyersburg Mall Walkers Club will be conducted from 7-9 a.m. at the mall's center court. The checks are provided by the American Red Cross. The Mall Walkers Club is a community service sponsored by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, Dyersburg Regional Medical Center, Dyer County chapter of the American Red Cross and the Dyersburg Mall. For more information, call 286-5426.

Newcomers Luncheon will be at 11 a.m. at Lock's Store at Millsfield. For more information call 285-2395.

Dyersburg Regional Medical Center's Senior Circle will have blood pressure checks at 10-11 a.m. each Wednesday. Call for an appointment if you need a different time. For more information, call 287-2101.

Dyersburg Regional Medical Center's Senior Circle is holding water exercise classes from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Holiday Inn Express indoor pool. June Ksiezak is the instructor. The cost is \$3 per class or \$30 for a month. To reserve a spot or for more information call 287-2101.

Thursday, June 2

Dyer County Democratic Party will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Dyer County Courthouse. Items on the agenda will be the Republican attack on Medicare and Seniors, among others. All persons wishing to join the Dyer County Democratic Party are invited to attend.

Dyersburg Regional Medical Center's Senior

Circle will host a Lunch & Learn at noon in the basement classroom. Dr. Schmidt will discuss what causes back pain. Lunch catered by Sweet Peppers. RSVP by May 26. For more information, call 287-2101.

Friday, June 3

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Dyer County will take place June 3 at DSCC Campus from 5 p.m. to midnight. Relay For Life is a community-based, volunteer-driven event where community members unite to celebrate cancer survivors, remember lost loved ones and fight back against a disease that affects so many. Funds raised from Relay For Life support the American Cancer Society's mission to create a world with more birthdays by helping people stay well, by helping them get well, by finding cures and fighting back.

The annual Rotary Barbecue will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Okeena Park. Cost is \$5.00 for 1/2 a chicken.

The Seventh Annual Taking Back Our Community will be today and Saturday, June 4 at Future City Recreation Center. Tonight will be Youth night. On Saturday, the Fun Fest will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 4

4-H will have a car wash fundraiser at 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Security Bank-Newbern Branch. All proceeds go to 4-H Camp scholarships.

Sunday, June 5

The Fifth Annual

Greater Vision Biker Sunday, 701 S. Mary Jane Street, Troy will be today. The High Point Ride registration at 8 a.m. and is \$10 per person. The ride will leave the Giant Flea Market Parking Lot at 9 a.m. Proceeds will go to Smoky Mountain Children's Home.

Monday, June 6

The Dyersburg Civitan Club meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at The Farms. Individuals wanting to learn more about Civitan and the Dyersburg Club are encouraged to attend. Contact Russ Maher at 731-334-1168 for more information.

Lauderdale County Commission on Aging will host the First Monday at 11 a.m. Sandy Rice, RRT will speak about "The Benefits of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. For more information call 731-221-2402.

Tuesday, June 7

Genealogy Class Roundtable discussion instructed by Dr. Pamela Sirmans will be held at 11:00am at Lauderdale County Commission on Aging, 605 Airport Street, Halls. Call to reserve your spot at 731-836-5444.

The Lenox Social Group will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Catfish Galley. Anyone with ties to Lenox and surrounding areas are invited to attend.

The Dyersburg Diabetic Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. in the family life center of First United Methodist Church, Dyersburg (entrance is off Elm Avenue at the foot of College Street). Dr. Kevin

Cook, Doctor of Pharmacy, will speak on "How do my diabetes pills work?" All persons with diabetes and friends of persons with diabetes are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Sandy Prince at 286-4508.

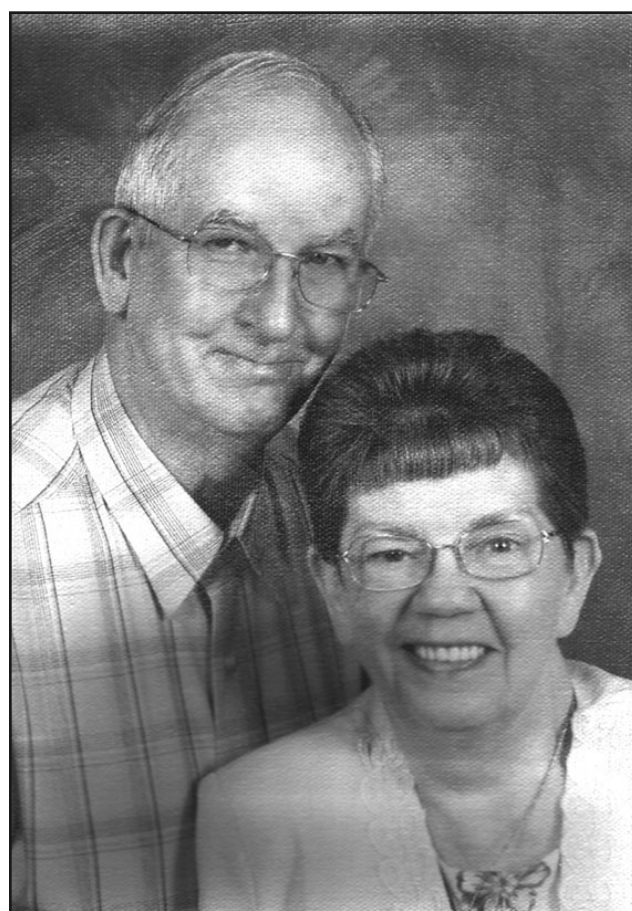
Wednesday, June 8

Dyersburg Women's Club Civic Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. This

will be the end of the year luncheon. For further information contact Louise Royer at 285-8996.

Lauderdale County Cancer Support Group "The Mustard Seeds" meets the second Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m. Today's meeting will be at Ripley First United Methodist Church. Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Annie Laura Jennings at 731-635-2171 or at anniejen@bell-south.net.

ANNIVERSARY



VANHOOSER 50TH: Ronald and Violet VanHooser are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today. They were married May 26, 2011 at Crown Point, Ind. They have a son, Tony L. VanHooser of Dyersburg. They met while working at Sears & Roebuck in Chicago, Ill. They moved to West Tennessee in 1978 and are members of Finley Baptist Church.

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When: Saturday, May 28th
Pick-up Time: 2 - 5 pm

**Where: First Presbyterian Church
parking lot in front of CCA (beside Lowe's)**

**Cost: \$20 for a slab of ribs
\$15 for a 3 lb stick of bologna**

** Tickets available at the school office or call (731) 285-3727*

The money from the fundraiser will go towards the relocation and the expansion of the playground at CCA.

MOM'S Memorial Day Weekend

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