

# In-law’s demands test family patience

**Dear Eric:** I would like to get along better with my niece’s wife, and I’m hoping you might offer some strategies.

The wife’s a nice person, but she’s high maintenance in ways that make whatever group she’s in bend to keep her comfortable. The boat tour has to go a certain speed, so she doesn’t get queasy. She has to drive whatever car she’s in, even if she doesn’t know the roads and isn’t a good driver. I don’t have an issue with her doing what she needs to take care of herself, but whatever it is often impacts the entire group and leaves us all flailing around to meet her requests.

I recently read about emotional hostage-taking, and I wondered if that might be at play. My once-adventurous niece no longer takes adventures because of her wife. During rare family reunions that my niece is enjoying,



**ASK ERIC**

her wife will get a sudden stomachache, and there goes my niece, to lay down with her in a quiet room.

I’m not asking for advice about their relationship, but for mine with the wife. Any time we’re together, I have less patience. I don’t want to be a person who has little tolerance for “kids these days” and their many special requests. I’m just not sure how not to be annoyed by them. – Wanna Do Better

**Dear Better:** There may be more to it, but it sounds like many of the events when your patience is tested are family social outings. So, you might take a book from your niece’s wife and

start to think in advance about what you’ll need to enjoy yourself most the next time you’re all together.

This isn’t an attempt to put this all on you. And I’m sure there’s some things you can’t avoid. It’s impractical to, say, charter another boat. But perhaps you can ride in a different car. Knowing how your niece’s wife might react to certain situations, and how you hope those situations will go, can empower you to speak up for what you need, as well.

Part of this, I’m sure, is rooted in concern for your niece. It’s hard to enjoy ourselves when we see our loved ones suffer. This may be how she feels when she sees her wife ailing, as well. So, without dipping too far into armchair psychology, you can also talk to her about what you’re observing and listen to what she says. Ask if there are ways that the family can

help support her and her wife and see if she’s open to brainstorming ways that everyone can have a good time. A conversation might not solve everything, but it can open the door to creative solutions and help you feel acceptance instead of annoyance.

**Dear Eric:** My oldest sister passed away recently after a lengthy illness. My husband’s first cousins have responded with calls, cards and messages except for one of his cousins. We attended the funeral of this cousin’s mother last year, in another city, sent flowers and my husband spoke at the service.

I have yet to receive any acknowledgment from this cousin, even though she and her husband are aware of the death.

I am hurt and bewildered since they were at our home only a few months ago and they speak to my husband

weekly.

I have not mentioned this to my husband as he and his cousin are close. She and her husband are retired and seem to do a lot of entertaining, so I don’t think they are too busy to call or send a card.

I always believed that as soon as someone heard about a passing, it was appropriate to reach out to the person grieving. It has been only about 10 days since my sister’s death.

Am I being unreasonable? – Unacknowledged

**Dear Unacknowledged:** Here’s some truths: grief manifests itself in all kinds of insidious ways. Even though your sister’s illness was lengthy, this part of grief is new, and a lot of hard things are going to come up. I’m not judging you for the way you feel, and I hope you won’t either. Another truth: when we experience loss, it’s important

for those who care about us to reach out. That didn’t happen in the case of your husband’s cousin, and it hurts. I’m sorry for your loss and that you’re experiencing this hurt.

Talk to your husband about how you’re feeling. I hope he’ll listen without judgment, too. He can be an intermediary, nudging his cousin to make sure you know they care. Sometimes people don’t know what to say. Sometimes they fear they’ve missed the chance. Your husband can remind them of these additional truths: it’s never too late and sometimes it can be enough to say, “I’m sorry; I’m here; I love you.”

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**Tanner Ecker / The Bismarck Tribune**

North Dakota Newspaper Association Executive Director Cecile Wehrman talks with other lobbyists at the North Dakota State Capitol on March 11.

## NOTICE

CONTINUED from A1

public notice, commissioners previously said.

The original legislation asked for a posting on the Secretary of State’s website to satisfy the legal requirement, but the bill was changed after concerns were raised about taking away a publisher independent of the government.

Whether public notices are posted digitally or in print, more than 80% of North Dakotans prefer they be delivered by an independent source rather than a government body, according to Cecile Wehrman, the director of the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

Wehrman said she sees the bill as a “compromise.”

The Senate passed the bill Wednesday, April 16, with a 32-15 vote.

“We are very pleased with the support we’ve gotten in both houses as far as newspapers and the importance of publications,” Wehrman said.

“This really goes to the heart of democracy that newspapers have always been the vehicle to inform voters about what the government is doing,” she added. “Newspapers being involved in public notices is just an extension of that trust.”

SB 2069 will now go to Gov. Kelly Armstrong to be signed or vetoed.

## BRIEF

### Waite Park deaths ruled homicide-suicide, police say

**WAITE PARK, Minn.** — Police say the causes of death for two people found in a Waite Park home Saturday, April 12, are homicide and suicide.

In a news release issued Wednesday, April 16, Waite Park Police identified the victims as Janet Vercruysse, 36, of Waite Park, and Demico Elyea-Goss, 29, of St. Cloud.

Vercruysse’s death was ruled a homicide by multiple gunshot wounds, according to preliminary autopsy results from the Midwest Medical Examiner’s Office.

Elyea-Goss’ death was ruled suicide by a gunshot wound to the head, according to preliminary autopsy results.

The release did not specify the nature of their relationship.

Waite Park Police responded at about 2 p.m. Saturday to the sound of gunshots in a home in the 200 block of 10th Avenue North in Waite Park, according to the news release. Two officers were across the street on a separate matter and heard the gunshots.

Two children, ages 5 and 8, ran from the house and confirmed a shooting took place, according to the release.

Inside the home, officers found two adults, both dead, who were later identified as Vercruysse and Elyea-Goss, according to the release. Multiple firearms were found at the scene, police said.

Forum News Service

### ARIES (March 21-April 19):

What may have looked like an easy plan, suddenly isn’t. Outside influences could complicate a simple process; others might mean well but don’t understand your idea. Focus on your goals despite interference and you may be rewarded.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

Do your best toward all of the commitments you take on. If a minor hiccup arises, look at things logically before rushing into assigning blame. It may fall to you to set things right, but a glitch doesn’t always mean you’re at fault or must fix it.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

There’s always a direction for you to grow whether it’s upwards or sideways. Cherish your good fortune, your health, and your loved ones, never treating anything as a given. You might be called upon to be the peacemaker in a dispute.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22):

Remove the chip from your shoulder. Escalation may be inevitable if you’re looking for a

### YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



**MAGI HELENA**

Your Daily Horoscope

fight, but a few kind words could de-escalate a situation. Resist the urge to make an impulse purchase that could delay your financial plans.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):

A friendly attitude may encourage others to lend a hand. You might prepare for a relaxing weekend by tidying up loose ends. Consider burning off some calories by cleaning your place or digging a garden spot with the help of a friend.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Keep lessons from the past and leave the rest behind. When your heart is in the right place, everything else may fall into place. Be honorable in your professional life and don’t ask

for more than your fair share. Steer clear of new romantic attachments tonight.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

It could be important to extend courtesy to everyone you encounter, even if those you cross paths with don’t seem to fully value your words or good deeds. Don’t be deceived into thinking your every move and contributions are going unnoticed.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Your dream of spending an evening in paradise with a loved one could be near. Taking an affectionate escape while someone is in the mood could prove to be as blissful as you’d imagined. Be careful not to overlook a promise or obligation.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

It may be fun to share amusing stories but keep some stories private. Certain life chapters might be best kept out of the public eye. Your diligent work ethic could help you avoid giving anyone ammunition to gossip about you.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Your partners or colleagues might share valuable insights that take you to the next level. At the same time, you might sense some competition going on that may put you on the defensive. Don’t let conflicts within your circle get to you.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Keep an open mind. You might enjoy a mentally stimulating conversation if you meet someone at the gym or at the grocery store. If you’re single, they may have potential. Fresh perspectives and valuable opinions could improve your life and your finances.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

Prioritize your tasks wisely. Spending time on the right things could give you more time and energy. Even if things are tight, don’t underestimate the power of hard work as it may eventually pay off, allowing you to enjoy what you have.

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## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OSUHE

COERF

ROCEEN

RITAMU

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OSUHE

COERF

ROCEEN

RITAMU

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Today, Aug. 25, 2012, we can confirm that Voyager 1 has entered interstellar space.

VOYAGER 1

Are we including Pluto in the solar system or not, I forget.

THE VOYAGER 1 SPACE PROBE WOULD NO LONGER BE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

OSUHE

COERF

ROCEEN

RITAMU

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: SHEEN VENUE ARCADE TRUSTY  
Answer: The electricians at the conference mingled and discussed — CURRENT EVENTS

## Sudoku By The Mephram Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

	1			7	6			
		5					2	
7			3	5				9
8	2							6
			5		3			
5	3						4	1
1				6				4
	6					2		
			1	4			7	

Solution to Thursday’s puzzle

4/18/25

7	8	6	3	5	2	1	4	9
1	4	9	8	7	6	3	2	5
2	3	5	1	4	9	8	7	6
4	5	7	9	8	3	6	1	2
3	1	8	2	6	4	5	9	7
9	6	2	7	1	5	4	3	8
8	9	1	5	3	7	2	6	4
6	2	3	4	9	8	7	5	1
5	7	4	6	2	1	9	8	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.  
For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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## THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Put money on a sports game

4 Hamster or cat

7 Dutch flower

9 Enormous

11 Las Vegas resort feature

12 Took a breather

14 Shade tree

15 “Opposites \_\_\_”

17 Siesta

19 Hiking equipment

21 Performed exceptionally well

22 Not wearing clothes

23 Strong winds

25 \_\_\_ fashioned (bourbon cocktail)

26 Christmas visitor

27 Chameleon or cobra

29 Camping shelters

30 Olympic competition, often

31 Fill with cargo

32 Color of a swan

34 Pro who cares for teeth

37 Hired thugs

38 By way of

39 Front of a brownstone house

41 Expel from office

42 Is priced at

44 Antidepressant drug: Abbr.

45 Crunchy sandwich, for short

46 Get the picture: 2 wds.

48 Serving of butter

49 Prepare fillets

51 Biblical prophet during Ahab’s reign

53 Moon-related

54 Reduced to granules

55 Toothpaste type

56 Bear’s lair

DOWN

1 City transit vehicle

2 Director Kazan

3 Windshield treatments

4 Serving of chicken

5 \_\_\_ Timor (Asian country)

6 Explosive stuff: Abbr.

7 Dish wrapped in a cornhusk

8 Road hazard

9 Thousand, slangily

10 Apartment renter

11 Free and \_\_\_

13 Pub game

14 Product of a hen

16 Part to play

18 Pod veggie

20 Copy of a photo

22 Marauders

24 Figures, for short

26 Chairs and couches

28 Drink cooler

Thursday’s Puzzle Solved

R	I	B	S		M	E	A	N		O	S	A	G	E
E	P	I	C		O	N	C	E		R	A	C	E	S
P	O	L	O		M	E	N	S		A	U	R	A	L
				L	O	V	E	M	E	T	E	N	D	E
					T	I	N	Y		C	G	I		
S	T	R	E	E		T		S	T	R	E	S	S	E
H	O	A	R	D		C	L	A	U	S		C	A	T
E	K	G				O	I	L			O	S	U	
E	Y	E		T	R	A	D	E		C	A	R	E	D
P	O	R	T	H	O	L	E		S	O	L	E	L	Y
				A	R	M			T	E	S	T		
T	H	R	E	E	P	O	I	N	T	E	R			
T	A	I	G	A										
O	P	T	E	D		S	A	L	E		E	D	I	T
P	E	S	T	S		S	L	E	D		D	E	N	Y

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4/18/25

NORTHLAND OUTDOORS

Adventure awaits!

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