"American Sports

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

Longtime boyfriend has dream wedding plan but won't propose the (cash) gifts I have sent can. There's nothing stop-

ear Eric: My good friend has been with her boyfriend for more than 20 years. She finally moved into his house after her mom died a year and a half ago. They attend each other's family events weddings, funerals, birthdays, sports events, work parties – and he tells her he loves her.

He's had every detail of his future wedding already planned out, including who the groomsmen will be and where he wants to get married. Unfortunately after every holiday or special event, there's never an engagement ring for my friend. His girlfriend before my friend was a thinner blonde who dumped him.

After more than 20 years, do you think he'll ever propose and get married to my friend?

 Bridesmaid-in-Waiting Dear Bridesmaid: Sure, it's possible. It'll be

even more likely to happen if your friend and her boyfriend have an honest. frank conversation about their wants and the details of their individual timetables.

While it might seem obvious that, after 20 years, he should want to propose, especially considering he's already designed a dream wedding, the only way to find out what he's really thinking is talking to him about it. This is also the only way for your friend to let him know what she's thinking.



Often in long-term relationships, we start to assume our partners have enough data to be mind readers. And sometimes, too, we assume we know every neuron firing in the head resting on the opposite pillow. But, of course, that's not fully true.

Even if someone wants to have a surprise proposal, and all the fanfare that that entails, it's crucial for the health of the relationship to keep lines of communication open.

Dear Eric: I've heard, informally, that my nieces and nephews have collectively decided that the entire family (including me) will gather for the college graduation of one of my great-nephews in May. I wasn't involved in that decision, but that's OK. It's not my child or event. (I don't have children.) I am also the only living uncle.

I have no interest in going. These family events involve so many people; it is difficult to spend any meaningful time with anyone. In addition, it's on the other side of the country, and the graduate-to-be and I have never been close. He has barely spoken to me at other gatherings and has never acknowledged

over the years for birthdays, Christmas or his high school graduation. Although that seems to be the rule anymore, and not the exception.

This will be the first of such graduations that will happen almost yearly for some time. Not to mention the eventual weddings.

The dilemma is, if I skip one or two but go to others, there will likely be hard feelings among relatives. And if I go to this one (reluctantly), am I obligated to go to all of them?

Fortunately, it's not a financial burden. And I'm retired, so time is not an issue. But it feels more like a root canal appointment than a good time.

I feel like there is no "everyone happy" scenario here. Am I missing a solution? - Go or No

Dear Go or No: If you don't want to go, don't go and tell them the dates iust don't work out for you. You don't have to make up a fictional vacation or some other elaborate excuse. But you have your own life, schedule and priorities and it's true that this event does not fit into those.

By addressing this head-on and early, you also have the opportunity to send your well wishes, and a gift if you so desire. You also have the opportunity to set a precedent that's fair and that works for you. That precedent: you'll come when you

ping you from making the upcoming milestones feel special for your greatnieces and great-nephews in a way that's specific to you, your relationship and your capacity.

To your point that there may be hard feelings: everyone's feelings are their responsibility. If you're upfront with your relatives and make a good faith effort to honor the celebrants, you don't have anything to feel bad

Dear Eric: In response to "Grieving Granddad's" letter regarding the loss of his longtime dog companion, thank you so much for recommending adopting an older dog. I would also add that he, or anyone who isn't sure about a fur-ever commitment but wants dog(s) in their lives, might consider dog foster care. - Foster Dog Parent

Dear Foster: A great suggestion. Another note that came up in the responses to this question is that everyone, of any age, should make sure that there are plans in place for a friend or relative to take care of the dog if the owner is incapacitated or dies.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric com or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at rericthomas. Distributed by Tribune

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BIRTHDAY STAR: Actor Patrick Schwarzenegger, born in Santa Monica, California, in 1993, has appeared in "The White Lotus," Story," and "The Staircase." His other TV work includes "The Terminal List" and "Scream Queens," while his film credits feature "Stowaway, and "Daniel Isn't Real." He is the son of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A process of creation could be juiced by added artistry and grace. A conversation with someone central to your life could bear fruit. A change in objectives could bring in additional support.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider staging a project to bring new beauty into your living space — even something small can bring joy. Breaking free from something that is neither clear nor in your best interest could be the power move now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If they just don't get your authenticity, let them. Just be you. Force nothing, the key is to be true to yourself. Financial matters are under more than one lucky star. Speak with diplomacy to be fully heard. CANCER (June 21-July

22): A money matter could get cleared up or at least some progress could be made. A close person could have the understanding and abilities you might benefit from; bring your healing energy to someone who LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Any

calm over the course of the day, wait until you're feeling clear take any important actions. Trying to speak to a financial situation might not bring a full and complete resolution quite VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Something in your subconscious mind might not feel settled, a

little retreat time could help you

make peace with it. It could

be hard to get your message

across now, resentments could

agitated feelings can gradually

cloud what you're trying to say. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Communicate your great ideas, they could be the answer to what someone is looking for. Your career should be on a steady and stable path. If you don't resonate with something, don't try to force it, it just may not be aligned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your mystery could be intriguing but won't be simple for a hater to emulate or deconstruct. A friend could provide an answer or you could bring an answer to them. Forgiveness frees you to soar toward your future.

HELENA SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If someone close is feeling disrupted or dysregulated, bring

troubling you, sort through the lessons and learn what you can. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships could be on solid ground now and mutual progress can be made. A fear for someone's wellbeing could be resolved through offering tangible assistance. There could be a reason if words are

your special brand of calmness

to soothe their soul. Old,

unresolved business could be

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A quiet evening with a partner or someone special can be a nice reward after a busy day. Career matters are best addressed with careful thought, avoid taking hostile or hard-tounderstand actions.

sticking in your throat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Even if you feel grumpy and emptied out, someone might have the solid presence to help you recharge and feel better. A creative hobby could offer comfort, a getaway could create as many problems as it solves. TODAY IS YOUR

BIRTHDAY: Speak your truth but mind the room you are in during September. Clear communication could lead to a great opportunity to make positive changes which could add up over time. Listen to your intuition to make the most of what is offered. October isn't likely to be the peaceful, cozy month people usually expect—it is filled with poor stars pushing people to behave badly. Start nothing new, meet no one new, be patient. November could be a month to meet and greet for business or pleasure. You might meet a mentor or someone significant or become an important asset in someone else's life, join hands so all are uplifted. December is a month to rock it out in the world, your abilities are extra-shiny now and will likely be impossible for others to ignore. Discretion would be wise early in the new year, don't spill any tea. From there, move confidently into your future, 2026 can bring new

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planning.

successes based on careful

East Grand Forks City Council approves preliminary 12% tax levy with hopes to lower it

BY DELANEY OTTO Grand Forks Herald

EAST GRAND FORKS - The East Grand Forks City Council on Tuesday approved a preliminary tax levy for 2026 and set the date for a public budget meeting. The preliminary levy is

set at 12%, to be collected in 2026 for a total of \$7 994 542 Council m ber Dale Helms said he hopes to get the final levy down to somewhere between 3-5%.

The public budget meeting is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 2. A continuance hearing, if it is needed, is scheduled for Dec. 16. The council also approved the city administrator or clerktreasurer to certify the proposed tax levy to the auditor of Polk County, according to the resolution in the meeting agenda. City Administrator Reid Huttunen said city staff are also aiming to lower the levy between its proposed amount and final amount.

"That would be the goal of staff as well, to continue to work with you over the coming months to get that tax levy down as low as possible to a reasonable place that's acceptable to everybody," he said. During the communica-

tions portion of the meeting, the council read the schedule for East Grand Forks' fall clean-up week. It will be held Oct. 13-17 on street maintenance days, which is different from garbage pickup days. The street maintenance schedule, according to the meeting agenda, is: Monday: District 4 -

Point East of Bygland. Tuesday: District 5 -Point West of Bygland. Wednesday: District 2 -North of Highway 2, south of 17th Street NW.

Thursday: District 1 -North of 17th Street NW. Friday: District 3 - South

of Highway 2, north of Hazardous waste and electronic drop off will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the Public Works Department.

In other news, the coun-

Approved a special event application for the Hollydazzle Festival of Lights and parade, scheduled for Nov. 23, contingent on approval by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the closure of the Sorlie Bridge and parking lot by restaurant row, and waived the transient merchant. license requirements for the event at the Prohibition Room in The Spud Jr.

Adopted a resolution authorizing the East **Grand Forks Police** Department to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for traffic safety projects.

Adopted a resolution approving amendments to the Midco cable franchise agreement. The amendment will extend the term for 10 years, require all facilities to be put underground and address all the in-kind services. Approved a request to

start the hiring process for a truck driver for the Public Works Department. Authorized the city

administrator/clerk-treasurer to issue payment of recommended bills and Heard council member

Don Casmey thank City Attorney Ron Galstad for working on an "abandoned car situation" and getting several cars on the north end of town removed. Heard Huttunen report

that he and a personnel committee will begin negotiations this week with four union groups and that he will be traveling to the University of Minnesota Crookston campus Wednesday, Sept. 24, to present to the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee on a bonding request the city

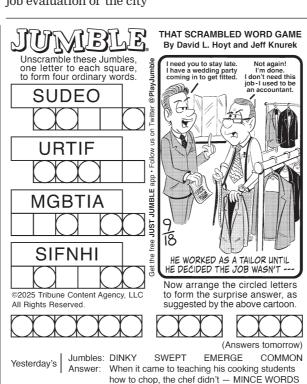
submitted earlier this year

for improvements to the

Industrial Park roads.

lowing the regular meeting. The agenda listed the job evaluation of the city

Held a closed session fol- administrator as the only agenda item.



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.

1 Walk heavily

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS 1 Garden area 5 TV sports awards

10 Happy 14 and learn 15 Very expensive 16 Pasta sauce 17 Sign of the future 18 Rainforest mammal 19 Individuals 20 "Be quiet!": 2 wds. 22 Least refined 24 Shoe bottom 25 Native people of Arizona

26 Actress Green 29 Pelosi of Congress 31 Type in

37 Insurance option: Abbr. 39 River near Phoenix

35 Morsel

40 Alumni weekend honoree: 2 wds. 43 Actress Shawkat

45 Making a fool of 46 "Yes, of course!" 48 San ___, California

44 Operate

50 No vote 51 Embraces 53 Aardvark's food 55 Nimble and

supple 58 Painting, music, etc.: 2 wds. 62 Most populous

continent 63 Sports venue 65 Horn sound

DOWN

21 Gin and __ 66 Exchange for 23 Imitate cash 25 Church song

67 Many rescue 26 Actor Hawke doas 27 Actress Davis 68 Notion 28 Confess to 69 "Go __ It on the

30 Beijing's country Mountain" 32 Promotional gimmick: 2 wds. 70 Big hit 71 Container for 33 Kagan of

SCOTUS 34 Tall and skinny 36 Inflatable toy: 2



MAORI ACESORAL PHOTO GODS ©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 38 "Candy is dandy" 56 "__ your point": poet: 2 wds. 2 wds. 41 British mothers 57 Steel factory 42 Name a price 58 Greek cheese 47 Color gradation 59 Used a bike 49 Contaminates 60 Parts of socks 52 Small weight units 61 Right away, in

the OR

64 __ and Coke

54 Shiny fabric

55 Final