

Advice & More

Community Life Bulletin Board

# Father-in-law eager for grandson needs reality check

**Dear Abby:** At 17, I learned I could never have children. I was devastated. I thought there would never be a "happily ever after" for me. I was wrong. I have been happily married to a wonderful man for four years. I was honest with him about my infertility, and it made no difference to him.

The problem is my father-in-law. Although my husband has two sisters, he is the only son of an only son, and his dad is always pushing the baby issue. He says things like, "If I could only have a grandson before I die," or, "When are you going to get busy and have me a baby?" When I remind him that he has a grandson, he says it doesn't matter. He wants one with HIS last name.

My husband thinks I should just tell his father the truth — that I can't have children — but I'm afraid his parents will hate me. It has been seven years since I learned I can't have children,



**Jeane Phillips**  
Syndicated advice columnist

**Dear Abby**

and I still feel an emptiness inside. And just when I think I can't feel any worse, my father-in-law's comments make me feel broken and useless. I could use some advice. — Childless in Arkansas

**Dear Childless:** I agree with your husband. The two of you should have a frank talk with his parents. Explain to his father that his comments are hurtful and why. He needs to know the truth. If you are "hated" after that, the problem is theirs — not yours.

P.S. Even if you could have children, there is no guarantee that they wouldn't all be girls. Big Daddy is overdue for a dose

of reality.

**Dear Abby:** Why do people write messages such as "Happy Birthday" to dead people in obituary columns in newspapers? I comprehend the idea of memoriams, but to wish someone who has died a happy birthday or anniversary seems ludicrous to me. Will you point this out to your readers and comment? — Mystified in Eastern Maine

**Dear Mystified:** I'm printing your letter, but I wish you would open your heart a bit and stop being so judgmental. People often do this because a special occasion such as a birthday or an anniversary makes them long for the person who died. They are still grieving over their loss and want their loved one to be remembered.

— Write to Dear Abby at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069 or www.DearAbby.com.

# Elderly drivers may have limits

**Dr. Gott:** My father needs to stop driving. He is 85 years old, and his reflexes aren't as keen as they used to be. He, in my opinion, doesn't meet the requirements of a good driver and is unable to focus on most of what is going on around him while driving (i.e., other drivers and pedestrians).

His eye and foot doctors both say he is fine to drive, and he has passed his driver's test, but none of his children will get in the car with him because he has had several near misses. The scary part is that during these misses, he did not even know the other person or car was there until someone pointed it out. He refuses to see his internist about our concerns and won't listen to anyone about it.

We are so afraid that he will cause an accident and hurt someone. I understand that he doesn't want to stop driving because it is a loss of independence. As I see it, he stops now, or he has his license withdrawn after something



**Peter Gott**  
Syndicated medical columnist

horrible happens. Either way, he loses that freedom, but he may lose much more. Please help us make him see the light.

**Reader:** Despite the confidence of two of his doctors and your state's Department of Motor Vehicles, you rightfully worried about your father's driving. I believe that your father's eye and foot doctors have not taken the whole situation into account. Your description leads me to believe that he is physically capable of driving but not mentally.

I can understand your father's reluctance to lose part of his independence, but you correctly point out the serious risks of him continuing to drive.

I urge him to seek the advice of his primary-care physician,

who can assess the situation and take into account the concerns of the family, and your father's physical and mental health, and then come to a decision.

In the meantime, perhaps you could work out a schedule with your father. Sit down with him to discuss your concerns and let him know that it is unsafe for him to drive at night, in heavy traffic, over long distances or during inclement weather, but you believe he may be able to continue driving as long as there is another person in the car, the roads are dry and the trip will not last more than 15 to 20 minutes. In this way, he is kept off the roads during peak hours when accidents are more likely and he can keep some of his coveted independence.

If he refuses, perhaps it is time to inform the DMV of his declining abilities and request that they retest him.

— Write to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th floor, New York, NY 10016.

# Infatuation comes before love

**Dr. Wallace:** This summer vacation, I spent two weeks in El Paso, Texas, with my sister and her husband. While there, I met a real nice guy and we went out three times. When I left for home, we promised to write to each other and to see each other next summer when we both graduate from high school.

About a week ago, I wrote first and told him that I had a wonderful time in El Paso, and was looking forward to seeing him next summer. Today I got his return letter and he said that he loved me. This really surprised me, but the more I thought about it, the more I think I could be in



**Robert Wallace**  
Syndicated advice columnist

**Between 12 & 20**

love with him, too.

Is this possible or do you think we're just infatuated with each other? — Bethany, Eric, Pa.

**Bethany:** You're obviously infatuated with each other, but that doesn't mean you can't also be "in love." Infatuation is the doorway to love.

Love is an emotional and spiritual state that is about not

only the present moment, but also the long term (i.e., the rest of one's life). Infatuation happens all at once; love grows over time. Infatuation fades at the first challenge or difficulty, but love survives and grows stronger.

In other words, the only way for you to know whether it's really love is to spend more time with him. When you see each other next summer, you'll be able to tell more clearly whether there's real substance to your feelings for each other.

— Write to Dr. Wallace at rwallace@galesburg.net.



## STAR students get civics lesson

Posted by Leslie Lamkin



"How to be a good citizen" is on the curriculum this summer at the STAR Foundation Employment Training Program. Along with computer skills, work skills, and life skills, students are learning the importance of civic responsibility. They attended a recent meeting of the Glynn County Commission, helped package pharmaceutical supplies at MAP International and food at America's Second Harvest and will host a Red Cross blood drive at the STAR office, 1907 Gloucester St., Aug. 26.

Now in its twelfth year, the Brunswick-based STAR Foundation has helped provide the

community with a higher quality workforce. Supported by the United Way and the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, STAR's mission is to change the lives of individuals with limited incomes by teaching them the skills that help them become financially stable and more productive employees.

Pictured at a recent Glynn County Commission meeting are **Commissioner Jerome Clark** from left, **Deborah Brown, Nichole James, STAR Executive Director Ellen Murphy, Michelle Sanchez, Shavetta Simmons, Commissioner Cap Fendig, Melisa D'Aguiar, Commissioner Howard Lynn and Katalin Vickers.**

## THIS SECTION

How to submit news for Community Life

Community Life reports on news closest to your life. You may submit information and photographs about the civic or charitable activities of individuals or groups to Community Life by:

- **Mail** The Brunswick News, 3011 Altama Ave., Brunswick GA 31520
  - **E-mail** comlife@thebrunswicknews.com (including photographs as attachments)
  - **Fax** 280-0926 (information only; faxed photographs are not of newspaper quality)
  - **In person** at either News location, 3011 Altama Ave., Brunswick or Edwards Plaza, 1701 Frederica Rd., St. Simons Island
- Please include your name and daytime telephone number.

### GUESS WHO!

Happy  
60th  
Birthday

THE FAMILY

## Happy 8th Birthday

# Joshua Caleb Gibbs

*We love you very much and are very proud of you!*

*Momma & Daddy, Brittany & Kelsee, Kyler & Lil Jamie, Uncle Bubba, Uncle Jamie, and Grandparents*

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### TO THE VOTERS OF GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA

There will be a General Primary Runoff on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 for U.S. Senate on the Democratic ballot and County Commissioner At Large Post 2 on the Republican ballot. All precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you did not vote in the Primary, you may still vote in the Primary Runoff. If you voted in the Primary, you must choose the same party ballot in the Runoff as you chose in the Primary.

Advance voting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 28, and continue until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, at **one** location, the Board of Elections office at 1815 Gloucester Street. The St. Simons Island location will not be in use for advance voting for the Runoff.

If you voted by absentee ballot in the July 15<sup>th</sup> General Primary, you must reapply for an absentee ballot unless you selected "all absentee ballots as allowed by law" and meet one of these requirements: a) 75 years of age or older; b) physically disabled; c) a member of the Armed Forces or Merchant Marines of the United States or a spouse or dependent living outside the municipality in which the election is held or a civilian permanently residing overseas. Please come to the Board of Elections Office at 1815 Gloucester Street in Brunswick to complete an application for an absentee ballot, or call the office at 912-554-7060 to have an application mailed to you. The last day an absentee ballot may be mailed is Friday, August 1, 2008.