



DEAR ANNIE

By Annie Lane

Running on empty from pleasing everyone else

**Dear Annie:** I’ve always been a people-pleaser, and it’s wearing me down. My boss, “Mark,” constantly asks me to take on extra tasks because he knows I won’t say no. Last week, I stayed late three nights in a row to finish a project that wasn’t even mine. And it’s not just at work, either. My roommate “Rachel” is constantly asking for favors (walking her dog, picking her up something from the store), and I always say yes even when it’s pretty inconvenient.

I feel guilty saying no to any of this, but I also feel the resentment beginning to grow. I want to be a good employee and a reliable, compassionate friend. How do I know where to draw the line? — Overwhelmed and Worn Out

**Dear Overwhelmed:** Being a good employee and reliable friend doesn’t mean saying yes to everything. If you feel resentment brewing, that’s a surefire sign that you’ve let the people-pleasing go too far.

You can either air out your grievances or jump right into changing your ways by telling Mark you’re already at capacity with your own tasks and letting Rachel know you simply won’t have time to run an extra errand.

Resentment is a clear sign that you need to start protecting your time. People who respect you will respect that choice.

**Dear Annie:** I’ve been dating a man who isn’t divorced yet, but his wife moved out in December 2023 and has since relocated to her own place in another town. He told me from the start that he wasn’t divorced but would be. We started dating in September 2024, and things have been fantastic. We go out for dinner, dance twice a week, bike and hike together. We both own our homes, so we don’t live together, but he comes over for dinner, we eat and watch TV, and then he goes home.

The problem is, whenever his grown children need him or have time for him, he drops me. I haven’t met them because he wants to be divorced first, but I haven’t met his friends either. He’s even gone to dinner twice with a retired male co-worker without inviting me. I made sure it wasn’t another woman, and I know it wasn’t, but he never includes me.

We make plans, but if his kids want to do something, let’s say go hiking, for example, he will go with them and cancel on me without asking me to come along. Recently, we had a Friday night date planned for 7:30 p.m. He had been babysitting, got home late and then texted at 6:30 to cancel because he was too tired. I was already dressed and ready. I was so disappointed. I still had him come over for dinner and TV because it was too late to do anything else, all my friends were out, and I didn’t want to be alone.

I knew he wasn’t divorced, but it’s been 15 months since his wife left. I feel I’m good enough for him, but then I’m dismissed when his children want him. Sometimes, my heart gets in the way of good judgment ... When is it time for me? What should I do? — Who Am I to Him?

**Dear Who Am I:** You’ve been extremely understanding of this man’s circumstances, and while it’s fair for him to be cautious about involving his children in his dating life, that doesn’t mean you should settle for less than you deserve. Kids aside, following through on plans and introducing you to his friends would prove that he cares and you’re important to him.

It’s time for an honest conversation. Is there any real progress being made to finalize the divorce? Will he make you a priority before then? Does he intend for you to eventually have a relationship with his children? If you’re not satisfied with his answers, you need to ask yourself how much longer you’re willing to wait for him to meet you where you are. A serious partner will make this space for you, not just fit you in when they feel like it.

— Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).



Submitted photo

Tomahawk Presbyterian Church cemetery is pictured.

Ground Penetrating Radar study uncovers 110 previously unknown graves at Tomahawk Cemetery

HEDGESVILLE — Tomahawk Cemetery, surrounds the historic Tomahawk Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1830 to replace an earlier log worship meeting house constructed sometime after 1750. The original log building was called Mr. Vance’s Meeting House, while the stone structure became known as Stone Church, Back Creek, until it was reorganized as Tomahawk Presbyterian Church in 1898. Tradition holds that the congregation was founded in 1745, marking 280 years of Christian worship at this location.

On March 29, 2025, a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study conducted at the cemetery uncovered 110 previously unmarked graves across a 1.5-acre section of the burial ground.

Tomahawk Cemetery is a well-maintained site co-managed by trustees from both Tomahawk Christian Church and Tomahawk Presbyterian Church. Local stories and oral histories have long suggested the existence of unmarked graves, particularly in a section down the hill behind the church. Garry Bock, who has been updating cemetery records for over 25 years, believes the GPR study has revealed a significant number of these hidden graves. He emphasizes the importance of honoring everyone who contributed to the community and explains that the GPR study was pursued when a grant opportunity became available.

Currently over 1,000 known documented burials and 43 of those individuals, the burial location is not known. Those 43 names mostly came from searching through the Berkeley County death records at the court house. Many graves are marked with just a field stone or other nondescript marker. A list of documented burials is available on the church website [www.tpcusa.org](http://www.tpcusa.org) under the cemetery link, and also documented on FindAGrave.com. The oldest marked grave dates to 1806.

Len Strozier, president and CEO of Omega Mapping Services, led the GPR study. Omega Mapping Services specializes in preserving cemeteries through advanced mapping techniques. Strozier’s company was selected from six competing bids for the project. Based in Forston, Georgia, Strozier has been involved in cemetery preservation since 2009, and is passionate and dedicated to help cemeteries honor the past,



Submitted photo

Tomahawk Presbyterian Church Elder and cemetery trustee Garry Bock and Omega Mapping Services President and CEO Len Strozier, left.

using cutting-edge technology to locate and document graves. He has even trademarked the term “Cemeterian” to describe individuals dedicated to preserving cemeteries.

This marks Strozier’s third cemetery GPR project in the WV Eastern Panhandle. He previously assisted with mapping the historic Green Hill

African American Cemetery in Martinsburg in 2023 and Payne’s Chapel Cemetery in Bunker Hill. The GPR technology used in the study, a GSSI SIR 3000, sends ultrawideband pulses into the ground, which bounce off objects such as buried graves. The strength and travel time of the pulses are recorded, with differences in mate-

rial properties create reflections indicating the presence of buried objects. Air pockets created by decaying burials also serve as an indicator of grave locations.

Once graves were identified, Strozier marked the areas with paint and flags. While this was the extent of his work at Tomahawk, his services also include detailed mapping and Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for grave plots, if requested by clients. Although GPR is highly effective, it cannot always guarantee the location of every burial, particularly if the grave is very old or if unusual burial methods were used. Some graves with headstones did not show signs of a burial during the scan.

To ensure the preservation of these newly discovered graves, the cemetery trustees will install modest markers at each of the newly discovered unmarked locations. This initiative aims to honor the individuals buried there, preserve the cemetery’s history, and ensure the graves are never disturbed. The trustees also enforce rules established 22 years ago to ensure that new graves are properly marked.

This project was made possible through funding from the Sept. 11, 2024, Day of Service and Remembrance Grant, sponsored by Volunteer West Virginia. Additional support was provided by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History. As part of its ongoing preservation efforts, Tomahawk Cemetery welcomes volunteers to assist with ongoing maintenance, including mowing and trimming during the growing season. The care of the cemetery is a community effort and the cemetery trustees are grateful to all who have supported the grant and the preservation of this historical landmark in the community.

Those interested in helping with the cemetery’s upkeep can contact [tpcusawv@gmail.com](mailto:tpcusawv@gmail.com). Donations to the Tomahawk Cemetery fund can be sent to P.O. Box 2204, Hedgesville, WV, or made via PayPal to Tomahawk Presbyterian Church, designated for “cemetery upkeep.” For more information about the GPR mapping technology used in this project, visit Omega Mapping Services at [www.omegamapping.com](http://www.omegamapping.com).

HINTS FROM HELOISE

CERAMIC WAX WORKS WONDERS

**Dear Heloise:** Robert L.B., in Vermont, wrote about a ceramic wax cleaner that was newer and awesome, but he didn’t give the name of the product. I would like to know what it is. Thank you! — T.K., in Nebraska

T.K., the author of the letter did not mention the name. However, you can type in “ceramic wax” online and see if there is one that you can order. Or you can ask an antique dealer or a store that sells ceramics what they recommend. — Heloise

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:** [Heloise@Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise@Heloise.com)

THE LAST STRAW

**Dear Heloise:** Regarding the person reusing straws, do you think if you put them in



HINTS FROM HELOISE

By Heloise

the dishwasher to clean them that the inside of the straw is going to be washed and clean? All kinds of germs will stay inside the straw. Plus, most dishwashers will melt the straw in the drying cycle. Best regards! — D.M., in Texas

D.M., they now make metal straws, and I’ve bought heavy-duty straws made from thick plastic. You might be able to find them in a grocery store or online. To clean them, just soak them in an oblong dish of warm, soapy water, then run warm water through each straw. Should you sterilize the

straws? No. However, they will be clean this way. — Heloise

A COUPLE OF HINTS

**Dear Heloise:** I wanted to add a couple additional thoughts on cracked/dry hands and straws:

My manicurist says rubbing olive oil into your hands, especially at bedtime, is the best thing to use.

I save used straws for flower beds and pots to stake up plants. I especially like the green ones from my favorite coffee shop.

Speaking of coffee, I’m still waiting to see additional uses for used coffee grounds. My coffee shop also offers their used grounds and nicely packages them. — Susi E., in Oklahoma

Susi, a reader wrote in recently about his uses for coffee grounds. Here it is:

COFFEE GROUND USES

**Dear Heloise:** Every year, I had problems with ticks and fleas until a neighbor gave me a simple trick that actually worked. He told me to sprinkle coffee grounds all over my yard. It can be fresh or used grounds. I saved used coffee grounds in a plastic bag until I asked the owner of a local coffee shop to let me have his used grounds. He’d dump them in a plastic grocery bag, which I would pick up a couple of times a week.

I’ve found that my ticks and fleas vanished once I started doing this early on every spring. I usually do it every other month now, and I still don’t have those disease-carrying little pests. — Jason F., in Houston

PULLED PORK MADE EASY

**Dear Heloise:** My fam-

ily loves pulled pork sandwiches, but needless to say, it’s a lot of work. Finally, one day, my daughter-in-law was here and told me to put my new stand mixer to use by having the beater shred the pork. I just take the standard beater, and after the pork is cooked, I place it inside of a large metal bowl. In only a few minutes, I had shredded pork! What a clever idea! — S.P., in Michigan

REUSING OLD PAINT THINNER

**Dear Heloise:** When I clean oil-based paints at home with paint thinner, I use thinner from a gallon can that is labeled “dirty.” I reuse the dirty thinner over and over again to clean my brushes. It may be dirty, but it is still thinner and does the job. Why waste money on new thinner? — J.B., via email