

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Q: Our 13-year-old eighth-grader says he doesn't like the small private school he attends and wants us to put him in public high school next year. His grades are fine, he's got several close friends, and he's on the basketball and track teams, but he says that he's bored and wants to attend a bigger school that offers more in the way of classes and activities. We are concerned because the high school he would attend has a reputation for

being a risky environment. We've heard horror stories of previously good kids falling in with the wrong crowd, getting into drug use, and the like. In our estimation, our son is the sort who might cave to peer pressure. He assures us that we have nothing to worry about. What are your thoughts?

A: Well of course he assures you that you have nothing to worry about! As today's young people are prone to remarking, "Duh!"

Do you think for a second that he's going to respond to your concerns with, "You know, Mom and Dad, now that you mention it, I agree that I'm just the sort of young teenager who is likely to fall in with the wrong crowd and begin experimenting with various forms of juvenile delinquency. You guys are absolutely correct! I'd be much better off staying right where I am! Thank you for being the voices of reason in my life!"

No, he's not. He's going to promise, and with good intentions, that putting him in a viper pit is not going to result in a viper bite.

The fact remains, your son is not gifted with being able to tell the future and neither are you and neither am I. You and I are adults, how-

ever, and adults are far more adept than young teens when it comes to assessing possibilities and probabilities. In that regard, the possibility that your son will fall in with the wrong crowd in the public high school in question is a given. The actual probability of that may be less than, say, 20 percent, but 20 percent may be triple or even quadruple the chance of his becoming bit by a viper if he stays put.

I am reminded of the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it." In every respect, things are fine at the small private school. Right? Right! Therefore, I would recommend that you leave him there. If I were in your shoes, I would much rather my young teen son be bored (if that is truly the case) than tempted daily by the forces of evil.

The problem is that you have already stepped into quicksand by including your son in the discussion. I just hope you're not the sort of wimpy parents who can't bring themselves to make their children unhappy, who are forever negotiating and compromising with the

AG Fitch Announces Sentencing in COVID Unemployment Fraud Cases

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emotion-driven terrorists-in-residence because if you take my recommendation, your son is going to be unhappy. For a while, that is. And then he will snap out of it and move on.

Just say, "We have decided to leave you where you are. We aren't going to explain ourselves to you because we aren't going to argue with a 13-year-old, and we aren't going to change our minds, but you are welcome to make us prove that to you."

And then, brace yourselves for the storm of the century. But that, too, will pass.


John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

for people truly in need of this assistance." **Lynn Fitch** Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced the sentencing of two individuals this month involved in a scheme for defrauding the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When COVID-19 shut down businesses and sent people home without paychecks," said Attorney General Lynn Fitch, "Mississippians relied upon MDES to be able to get them the enhanced unemployment benefits quickly. That money was a lifeline for so many families, and fraud like this made it that much harder for people truly in need of this assistance. I want to thank the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), MDES, and U.S. Department of Labor for their partnership with my office in the investigation that led to this just outcome for all the Mississippi taxpayers."

The scheme prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office Public Integrity Division involved one defendant, Lawrence Scott Riley, filing fraudulent unemployment benefit applications for two individuals in MDOC custody, including Hanh Huynh. Judge Christopher Schmidt of Hancock County Circuit Court, sentenced Riley to a maximum of 23 years in the custody of the MDOC, with 10 years to be served in MDOC's Intensive Supervision Program. Riley was also ordered to make full restitution in the amount of \$124,442.00 to MDES. Judge Schmidt also sentenced Huynh to 5 years in the custody of MDOC.

A trial before Hancock County Circuit Judge Lisa Dodson involving the other individual involved in the scheme, William "Tally" Vaughn, is scheduled for August 2022. That case is also being prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office Public Integrity Division.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1) It's mounted on runners

5) Corleone in "The Godfather"

9) Illegal inducement

14) Serve the iced tea

15) ___ horse (locomotive)

16) Happen again

17) Hairstyle that's picked?

18) Like a lemon

19) Love to pieces

20) Is absolutely relentless

23) Cabbagelike veggie

24) Ballpark official, briefly

25) Spars that cross a sail

28) All hail them?

30) It can be an X or an O

33) It's charged

34) Cornmeal dish

35) Search, as for compliments

36) Goes around with bad intentions

39) Bugs on a hill

40) Top-of-the-line

41) Food for frogs

42) "All right!"

43) Britain, to the U.S.

44) "Finally!"

45) First word said after a birth

46) Have roots in (with "from")

47) Is as stubborn as a mule

54) Winged honker

55) Vigorous enthusiasm

56) Do as one's told

57) Nasal congestion locale

58) Vending-machine offering

59) Cyrano's large feature

60) Plus column entry

61) Capsize (with "over")

62) Collectors' goals

DOWN

1) Health club features

2) Hay or choir area

3) Dollar relative

4) Old field goal attempts

5) Heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, etc.

6) Good and steamed

7) Utterly undecided

8) Aware of, as a scam

9) Lullaby composer Johannes

10) Get more fondue

11) Desktop graphic symbol

12) Small town

13) Bard's "before"

21) Fills to excess

22) Starchy veggie

25) Spread apart, as fingers

26) Face downward

27) Civil disturbances

28) Like a Kansan's trite joke?

29) Poker-pot starter

30) Bone or flute

31) Tropical spots

32) Word with "medicine" or "cedar"

34) Place to swim

35) Monthly lunar phenomena

37) Not true

38) Quite a bit

43) Provide evidence for

44) Hardly melodious

45) 1/12 of a subscription, often

46) Lacking freshness

47) Clark's partner

48) Electrically charged particles

49) A real head-turner

50) Gin flavorer

51) Woodwind with a pastoral sound

52) Bluebird's residence

53) Things that may twinkle

54) Government procurement org.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE

By Timothy E. Parker

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