

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: My son's new wife — who has a daughter — insisted that his two children are not biologically his. After a DNA test, it turns out she was right. They aren't. My son, my husband and I are heartbroken. His twins are 10, and they don't understand what's going on.

My husband and I are trying to gently remain in their lives with phone calls and limited visits. My son's wife refuses to visit with us until we stop communicating with the children, promise never to talk about them and display no pictures in our home. She's trying to convince our son to stop seeing us, as well. What to do?

— *Disappointed in Texas*

Dear Disappointed: Those children, regardless of who their birth father is, were raised believing you and your husband are their grandparents. If you love them, do not knuckle under to your son's new wife or it will be only the beginning of how she will attempt to control you.

She does not have the right to dictate who you (or your son, for that matter) see and communicate with. She also does not have the right to order you to remove any object from your home.

If your son opts to turn his back on those children, that's a decision only he can make. If he also chooses to turn his back on you, then you raised a milquetoast instead of a man.

Dear Abby: I'm a married man, and I love my wife. We're not living together at the moment due to unfortunate circumstances.

Being far away from her, I get extremely lonely. I have a co-worker who became a good friend, and I have feelings for her. I have told her how I feel, and we have hung

out a few times — nothing sexual. Now she's moving away, and I feel heartbroken. How should I deal? I'm fighting back tears for someone I'm not even with. What do I do?

— *Heartbroken in the East*

Dear Heartbroken: A relationship does not have to be sexual to be meaningful, and your co-worker was filling a space in your life that was empty. That you feel a sense of loss and sadness that she is moving is not surprising.

Not knowing the unfortunate circumstances that caused the separation between you and your wife, I can only advise you to start looking for a way to mend fences or change those circumstances so you can live together again, because clearly, you're not doing well on your own. If that's not possible, start giving serious thought to how you plan to live the rest of your life, because this way isn't working.

Dear Abby: The other day I was on a video conference call with our boss and two colleagues. When "Joan" came on the call, "something" was hanging from one of her nostrils. She may have had a cold. I scratched my nose and mustache a few times, trying to alert her of what was happening, to no avail. She didn't react. No one else said anything.

What would the correct protocol have been? Should I have left it alone or was I right to try to let her know? I did what I would have done in person. Should I have privately texted her? Please advise.

— *Telecommuting Woes*

Dear Telecommuting: If the person with the leaky nose had been you, wouldn't you have wanted to know? Yes, you should have texted her.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 2021: Spirited, courageous and demonstrative, you rebirth yourself several times in this one lifetime. This year, a new beginning proves to be amazingly successful and you win accolades. If single, it's important for you to act spontaneously, so you fall in love many times. By the end of August you'll feel ready to move forward with a commitment. If attached, slow down and smell the roses. ARIES makes you feel blissful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ It's a time to be assertive and seek what you most want. An awareness of your inner gifts and potentials surfaces. You have much energy and strength today. Resist the temptation to vanquish an old adversary if it arises. Tonight: Pour energy into constructive projects.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today you'll be vibrant and sensitive. Psychic energies are high, and you could experience telepathy with a loved one. Allow a little slack in your schedule. Projects can take longer than you expect. Tonight: You may need extra sleep. Try to go to bed early.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Laugh at gossip and scandal; be discreet about what you say and to whom. There may be changing relationships in your social circle. Wait until the alliances are more settled before voicing your allegiance. Tonight: A partner could make important choices.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Today generates a need for freedom of expression. You'll be seeking an outlet for your inner enthusiasm. An old friend puts in a kind word. You can combine friendly interaction with business matters. Tonight: Your pleasant impression opens doors to what you've long deserved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Ask yourself which issues genuinely matter. Dreams can provide clues to inner guidance. Direct your tremendous emotional energy toward constructive outlets. Talk over feelings with others and give them a chance to explain their viewpoints if you're upset. Tonight: Tension-free.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You will do some investigative work to solve a mystery. Today brings help from hidden sources. You will have a sense of spiritual guides and entities watching over you. You will discover hidden aptitudes. Tonight: In wonderment at the day you've just had.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Today you insist on fairness. This is annoying to a certain someone who is tempted to overlook awkward details. Stand your ground. Your ethical attitude wins admiration in the end. Others are loyal. An important new partnership can be forged. Tonight: Making a difference.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Health and fitness come up strongly today. You might be critical of yourself and want to overcome any unhealthy habits or shortcomings. Have faith that as long as you do your best, all will be well. Tonight: Your sense of humor helps a great deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ There's a chance to escape from your responsibilities for a time. Separate work into small segments and take breaks to avoid fatigue. Be aware of how emotions and attitudes affect your work. A pet needs extra tender loving care today. Tonight: Play with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ It's a poignant day. You will communicate better with authority figures at work. You'll be aware of how family traits affect you. Family history can provide clues to maintaining your health and well-being. It's easier to enlist cooperation and support from others. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Your schedule is full. You'll use words in a clever, convincing way. Your judgment is good; make choices and commitments. Don't let yourself become scattered. Concentrate. It is very important to return all phone calls and emails promptly. Tonight: A surprise call.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Be receptive to a new work location. A project you've contemplated is worth pursuing. Extra effort extended today leads to future benefits. There could be some new developments at work to analyze. Tonight: Thoughts and conversation revolve around money matters.

Shiffrin

Continued from A5

Shiffrin excelled in both the super-G and the slalom portion to win her second medal of this year's worlds.

Marco Schwarz won the men's combined to give Austria its third straight gold medal in the men's events.

Shiffrin's success has come three months after returning to ski racing from a 300-day break from competition following the death of her father in February 2020, the coronavirus pandemic and a back injury.

She ranked third after the super-G portion on Monday but was fastest in the slalom leg to beat Petra Vlhova of Slovakia by 0.86 seconds. Olympic champion Michelle Gisin of Switzerland finished 0.89 behind for bronze.

Trying not to overpower her run, Shiffrin skied rather conservatively through the first couple of gates before accelerating once she found her rhythm.

Shiffrin initially shrugged her shoulders after finishing her slalom run, seeming to indicate she wasn't sure whether her time would hold up.

"It's always tough to know. I felt like I was pushing, even though some turns felt slippery, but I was still pushing,"



Marco Trovati/AP

Mikaela Shiffrin competes during the slalom portion of the women's combined race at the alpine ski world championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, on Monday.

Shiffrin said. "I thought if somebody else has the timing a little bit better, especially the very top part, I don't have a guaranteed medal off."

However, no one came even close to the American. Even Vlhova, the overall and slalom World Cup leader, lost ground on Shiffrin after she placed seventh in the super-G.

Two of Shiffrin's main competitors failed to complete their slalom runs.

First-run leader Federica Brignone straddled the third gate as Italy keeps waiting for its first medal at this year's worlds after five events. Two-time defending champion Wendy Holdener of Switzerland also skied out early in her run.

In the men's race, Schwarz edged defending champion Alexis Pinturault by four-hundredths of a second. Loic Meillard of Switzerland was 1.12

behind in third.

Schwarz, a bronze medalist two years ago, was four-tenths off the lead in fifth after the super-G portion but showed his slalom skills as he posted the fastest time in the deciding leg.

Canadian skier James Crawford surprisingly led after the super-G part and finished a career best fourth.

The worlds continue with parallel races for both women and men on Tuesday.

Elks

Continued from A5

Staff and fans wore appropriate face coverings during the game, and the Pickles' players, coaches and fans were also encouraged to wear masks while traveling from game to game.

At the stadiums, cash was not accepted and all tickets were digital to eliminate shared contact between guests and employees. Each person that entered the facility was required to take a contact-free temperature check, and no one was allowed inside the stadium with a temperature higher than 99 degrees.

The protocols the Pickles used last summer are to be expected at Elks games, starting with the June 3 home opener at Vince Genna Stadium.

"We are basing our plans off those regulations," Hirko said.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

The West Coast League season was canceled last summer, but the Bend Elks are planning a return to play this coming June.

was still in its early stages.

"(The Pickles) were able to do test runs, and they were able to do it without COVID cases," Hirko said. "We have had research, and we are trying to go above and beyond to provide that experience that our fans are used to."

The Knights, who play their home games at Goss Stadium on the Oregon State campus, say that the program is in regular contact with OSU officials. While competing in intercollegiate athletics since last fall, OSU is no stranger to dealing with the obligations of competing during the pandemic.

"The university is well-versed in health protocols and has done a great job keeping their athletes and staff healthy," said Bre Miller, the president and general manager of the Knights, in the release. "We appreciate their support, we'll

lean on them for advice, and of course we'll meet all OHA and Benton County guidelines and protocols at the time of competition."

The season is still months away from starting, but the Elks' roster is complete and the team will start announcing some of its players over social media platforms over the next couple of weeks, according to Hirko.

Made up mostly of out-of-town college players, the Elks rely on host families to provide housing to the players during the summer. Currently, the Elks are finalizing plans to continue their host family tradition without putting the families at risk.

"We are hopeful that it will be a similar experience for our players," Hirko said, "and enough families to host."

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

NCAA

Continued from A5

North Carolina fell flat with a chance at a resume-building win on Saturday, scoring 48 points in a loss to No. 9 Virginia.

The Tar Heels failed to have a double-figure scorer for the first time since 1966, are 12-7 overall and No. 56 in the NET after going 1-6 in Quadrant 1 games.

Kentucky, at 6-13 and No. 76 in the NET, will likely need to win the SEC Tournament to join the field of 68.

On the rise

Kansas (15-7, 9-5 Big 12): Once a blueblood appearing to be in trouble, the Jayhawks have reeled off three straight wins. Kansas has some big

potential resume builders after facing rival Kansas State, with games against No. 7 Texas Tech, No. 13 Texas and No. 2 Baylor to close out the regular season.

UConn (9-5, 6-5 Big East): The Huskies picked up a critical win by beating Xavier 80-72 on Saturday without James Bouknight. UConn is a superb defensive team and if Bouknight is fully healthy, the Huskies could make a run to the field of 68.

Rutgers (12-7, 8-7 Big Ten): The Scarlet Knights were poised to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1991 before the tourney was canceled last season. Rutgers may still have work to do to end the streak this season, but it has won five of six after beating

Northwestern on Saturday.

Oregon (12-4, 7-3 Pac-12): The Ducks were among the favorites to win the Pac-12, but they labored through injuries and two COVID-19 pauses. Oregon finally had its top five scorers on the floor together in a victory over Arizona State last week and has won three straight after beating Arizona in Tucson.

Fading hopes

Maryland (10-10, 4-9 Big Ten): The Terps have wins over Illinois and Wisconsin but have been inconsistent most of the season. Maryland has lost three of four and could use a strong finish to get off the bubble.

Drake (19-2, 10-2, Missouri Valley): Less than two weeks ago, the Bulldogs joined No. 1

Gonzaga and Baylor as Division I's only undefeated teams. Drake then lost at Valparaiso and was blown out by No. 22 Loyola Chicago. A win over the Ramblers in the rematch on Sunday was huge.

Toledo (16-6, 11-3 MAC): A team on the NCAA Tournament bubble can't really afford consecutive losses late in the season. The Rockets did just that against Ball State and Bowling Green in their last two games.

Stanford (13-8, 9-6): The Cardinal have wins over Alabama and UCLA on their resume, but also have losses to Arizona State and Utah. They still have chances to pick up marquee wins with No. 20 Southern California and Oregon remaining.



Taylor Towery and the team at The Bulletin have been knowledgeable, attentive to our needs and delivered successful print and digital campaigns. We will continue to use them as we grow our business and expand throughout Oregon and look to them for advertising guidance. Thank you for your continued professionalism and kindness.

Very Sincerely,

Heidi Olson-Dunlap
Broker
Mountain Living Real Estate Group of Central Oregon
Mountainlivingreg.com

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

www.bendbulletin.com
541.382.1811