

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** A few weeks ago, my 14-year-old sister snuck out and had sex with a boy she met on Snapchat. I know this because my distraught mother decided to tell me.

My sister lied to my parents repeatedly about it, but later, when they went through her phone, they found explicit images that a girl her age should never have. Furthermore, after they confiscated her phone, she acquired a new one from a friend and continues to message boys through Snapchat. She continues to lie to my parents when they ask her if she's communicating with anyone.

She has been hanging around a toxic group of girls at school, and she's very impressionable. She isn't a bad person, but all this lying has left me confused and upset. What can I do to help her?

— Her Worried Brother in Georgia

**Dear Brother:** The age of consent in Georgia is 16. Do your parents know the identity and age of the person your sister met on Snapchat? The inappropriate pictures your parents discovered on her phone could be considered child pornography, and there are laws against it.

It's very important that your sister understand how dangerous what she has been doing is. Because the peer group she has chosen to follow is undesirable, it would be better if your sister was removed from that influence and home-schooled or transferred to a different school. Please suggest this to your parents.

**Dear Abby:** My best friend, "Betsy," died suddenly a week ago. She was only 58, and I

am devastated. She was the most upbeat, positive person I have ever known.

A year ago, a new neighbor, "Claudia," moved across the street. I befriended her and introduced Claudia to Betsy a couple of months ago. They met twice and texted each other a few times. I was pleased, thinking we could have a girls' night out once in a while.

After Betsy died, I heard Claudia has been telling people her "best friend" had died. The day before, she told me she barely knew Betsy. Claudia also said that at least now she didn't have to share me!

I am appalled that this woman is trying to co-opt my grieving for my dearest friend and make it her own. How do I deal with this?

— Sorrowful in Washington

**Dear Sorrowful:** I am sorry for the loss of your best friend. People who knew you and Betsy know how close you were. Claudia may have said what she did in order to gain sympathy or attention.

Your grief is your own. No one can steal it from you. Claudia may be insecure or jealous of the closeness you shared with Betsy. Now that you know what kind of person Claudia is, act accordingly.

**Dear Abby:** Do you feel the words "cool" and "perfect" are way overused and should be retired indefinitely?

— Curious in California

**Dear Curious:** No, but if you do, I'm perfectly cool with it.

How about overused words like "huge," "awesome" and "epic"? And is everything and everyone truly "AMAZING"? See what you have started? Somebody hand me a thesaurus.

Golf

Continued from A7

The Players Championship marks the one-year anniversary of the shutdown, and Monahan is all about looking forward.

The tour is allowing 20% capacity of fans at Sawgrass. Based on the sound from the Phoenix Open and at Bay Hill, even limited spectators can make plenty of noise compared with nine months of mostly silence.

When the PGA Tour resumed on June 11, it played 33 of the next 36 weeks — one week off for Thanksgiving, two for the holiday season — without interruption or out-break. Over the last nine months, the tour has gone to 31 communities in 18 states and four other countries.

The positivity rate from about 50,000 coronavirus tests across three tours is less than a quarter percent. On the PGA Tour alone, 25 players reported positive tests, a list that included Dustin Johnson a month before he won the Masters.

It wasn't entirely smooth sailing. Monahan chose not to be paid and his top executives took a 25% cut in pay. The tour laid off 50 employees in the fall. Twelve tournaments were canceled.

The road back was far more complicated than the decision to shut down.

First, the majors had to find a spot on the schedule. The Masters took November, the PGA Championship went to August and the U.S. Open was about to take December until September opened up when the British Open was canceled.

"If I look back right now, I've got 60-plus spreadsheets of different versions of the schedule," said Tyler Dennis, the tour's chief of operations. "We were moving puzzle pieces around — who we thought might be able to play, when they could play, who we thought might have to cancel due to restrictions. It was a wild process. Normally we're looking at schedules five years out. Now we're looking five weeks out."

The RBC Heritage, which follows the Masters in April, originally was canceled. And then it was moved to June. Only two of the 14 tournaments when golf resumed kept their original spot on the schedule. None of it mattered without a health and safety plan. That largely fell to Andy Levinson, the senior vice president of tour

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— Tyler Dennis, PGA Tour chief of operations

administration who also oversees the anti-doping program and has his hand in gaming issues.

Working with Dr. Tom Hospel, the tour's medical adviser, Levinson found himself immersed in ever-changing CDC guidelines and on the phone with experts from the WHO and the White House.

The first presentation of "Return to Golf" to the players on the policy board didn't go very well.

"The tour presented all the things we'd have to do as players to return to golf in a safe manner. I don't think we made it to the third page before the push-back came," said Kevin Kisner, one of the four player-directors. "We felt there were too many things that would affect how guys would play and the competition would be affected negatively."

"And if it was going to affect the competition, there's no way we were going to return."

Testing was the biggest issue, and it remains the key moment for golf's return. South Dakota-based Sanford Health is a title sponsor on the PGA Tour Champions. The company had a few idle trucks that

had been used as mobile clinics in pop-up towns across North Dakota during the fracking boom.

Those could be converted into testing labs that traveled to tournaments and delivered test results quickly. That solved the biggest obstacle for golf — enough testing without taking away from the community and fast results.

"If you look at our return to golf, the partnership with Sanford was the single biggest development," Levinson said.

There were a few nervous moments when golf returned, particularly at the Travelers Championship in Connecticut the third week back. Two players tested positive. So did the caddies for Graeme McDowell and Brooks Koepka, leading both players — along with Koepka's brother, who made it through qualifying — to withdraw. Two other players withdrew just to be safe.

The surprise for Monahan was not that the tour made it back to The Players Championship without interruption, but that the COVID situation was not farther along. Fans are just now coming back with regularity, limited in numbers.

"But I'm thankful we are making progress. The fact we've been able to play every week has been fantastic," he said. "Our players deserve all the credit. You can set the best plan. But if the players, caddies, everybody doesn't follow it, you may not be able to sustain it."



Chris O'Meara/AP file

**PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan reacts to a question during a news conference at The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, in 2020. After a three-month shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tour has staged 36 events in 39 weeks without interruption.**

YOUR HOROSCOPE By Madalyn Aslan

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021:** Sensitive, deep and emotional, you're empathic to the point of being an absorbent sponge. This year, activate your buried ambition, and you'll be very successful. Protect yourself against someone's negative energy, and you'll triumph. If single, you're a real soul searcher, so you stay single this year. If attached, your partner is nurturing and the most fun person you know. You're lucky. LIBRA knows how to talk you out of anything.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Competitors provide inspiration, but take time to relax and regroup if you start to feel pressured. Community involvement will be rewarding. A mission to make the world a better place has appeal. Tonight: Enjoying a renewed appreciation for your cherished friendships.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Career prospects are both interesting and challenging. Innovate; be creative. Combine business with pleasure. Listen carefully to others. Today indicates that valuable information is offered during social situations and at Zoom meetings. Tonight: Sincerity is the best form of communication.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ A deep awareness is present. Your intuition is wonderful. Heed those inner voices, and you'll be guided toward success. Your energy level will be high, but do quell irritation. It's especially easy to overreact now. Tonight: Friends are willing to give your career a boost.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Your priorities and desires are in flux. It will be a wild but interesting day. Decide what it is that you really want and pursue it. There are endings and beginnings in process. Fate intervenes in plans, so be flexible and observant. Tonight: Relax.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Talented and powerful people are drawing closer to you. The promise of partnerships is very real. You discover much about others and how they feel toward you. Tonight: Keep an open mind and seek the truth, then all will be well.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Your work is rewarding and interesting today. You'll be thinking of how best to manage your time and resources. Needed materials and supplies become available. Communication with the very young or the elderly is excellent. Tonight: Be aware of how old habits come into play.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Today encourages you to splurge or take a gamble. Do enjoy some special goodies or luxuries in moderation, but don't go to extremes. You'll realize that there is so much to appreciate and be thankful for. Tonight: Catch up with an old lover.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★ Work out anger issues with family members. Compromise is the solution to domestic conflicts. Your residence might need some maintenance. Patiently work out differences and make much needed repairs. Shop for the best prices. Tonight: A long and arduous family dinner.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★ Relationships with siblings and neighbors can be demanding. Be patient. Undercurrents and extenuating circumstances are afoot. As the day ends, facts come to light. You'll be glad you were understanding and tolerant. Tonight: Allow others to grow and explore.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Old financial obligations or debts are becoming more manageable. You are entering a more promising security cycle. Learn more about financial management. Don't repeat patterns and habits that led to previous disappointments. Tonight: Conversations about monetary matters are wild.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Today is wonderful for study and analysis of all kinds. Social prospects are especially bright. Adorn yourself. Assemble an especially wonderful costume. Much can be accomplished. There is a deeper understanding of your own psyche. Tonight: Any confusion will clear.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Today is a time for rest and reverie, with the Moon in your sector of solitude and subconscious yearnings. Take note of dreams. Answers come from within. Allow nature and wildlife to draw nigh. The natural world offers peace and comfort. Tonight: Quiet time.

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