

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:** I've been dating a married man for the last three years, and everything was great. We were attached at the hip and inseparable. I thought we had something special going.

His wife abandoned him and their two children for more than a year, and he didn't know anything about raising kids, so I stepped in to help. It was great. They were just like my own. I was finally happy. I had the life I wanted. He even met with a lawyer to get a divorce.

Suddenly he announced he's letting her come back because she has nowhere to go. I am devastated.

Ever since her return, she has made his life a living hell. He tells everyone — including her — how miserable he is, and she does the same thing.

Why won't he get a divorce? Should I wait for him? Did he ever really love me?

— *Loving Lady in Texas*

**Dear Loving Lady:** There could be any number of reasons why he won't divorce his wife.

He may feel that, miserable as he is, a divorce would be too expensive. Or he may be trying to keep the family together "for the sake of the kids." Or he may even love her.

That she is making his life a "living hell" is a problem of his own making. Please, for the sake of your own mental health, quit making it yours.

Did he ever really love you? I can't answer that and neither can you. He certainly isn't acting like someone who loves you.

Gather your strength and jump off the treadmill. It's time to go on with your life.

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I are going to be first-time parents in a few months, and this will be the first grandchild on both sides of the family (and the first baby in almost 18 years).

We are excited to share this experience with them.

However, I have some concerns about after the baby is born.

I already deal with anxiety, and I have strict "rules" that I would like to be followed. For example, no kissing my baby's face, no posting photos on social media, etc.

How can I get my wishes across to my family without sounding like a control freak? I worry that they will not respect them and say I am overthinking everything. Any advice is appreciated.

— *First-Time Parent in New York*

**Dear First-Time Parent:** Your life is in transition, and your concerns are understandable. Remember, YOU are the parent. If you prefer your baby not be smothered with kisses, you are within your rights to say so.

However, as long as your relatives are not sick and wash their hands well before touching your newborn, there shouldn't be a problem. After three months, your baby's underdeveloped immune system should be stronger.

If you haven't already discussed this with your pediatrician, schedule an appointment. Not only will you find it educational, it may put some of your fears to rest.

As to your little one's image being posted online, every family has their own comfort level. Explain your concerns, and if the grands don't cooperate, make them surrender their cellphones when they visit.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Baton passed from NFL prospects to young talent in UO's restocked secondary

BY RYAN THORBURN

The (Eugene) Register-Guard  
The five defensive backs the Ducks started in the Rose Bowl victory over Wisconsin on Jan. 1, 2020, have all left the nest.

Cornerbacks Deommodore Lenoir and Thomas Graham, nickel back Jevon Holland and safeties Brady Breeze and Nick Pickett are all hoping to hear their names called during the NFL draft this week.

Oregon coaches are comfortable with the restocked secondary after several players gained experience during the truncated 2020 season with other young talents making strides during spring practice.

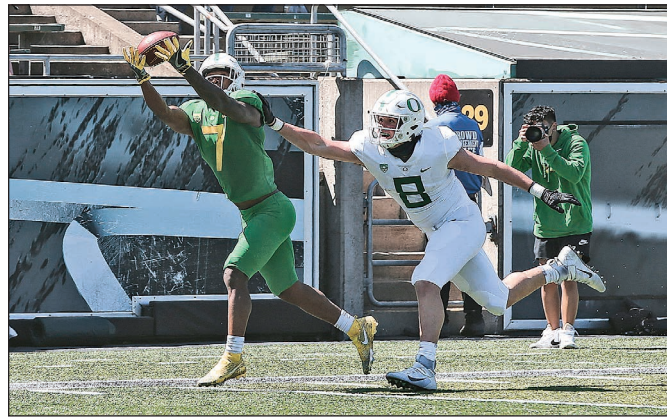
After Graham, Holland and Breeze opted out last season, Mykael Wright became an all-Pac-12 cornerback, Jamal Hill made a name for himself at nickel with two interceptions in the Pac-12 championship game and safety Verone McKinley became "the general" of the unit.

The list of safeties competing for more playing time with Pickett moving on includes Steve Stephens, Bennett Williams and Jordan Happle.

D.J. James is the early front-runner to replace Lenoir, but Trikweze Bridges, Dontae Manning and Jaylin Davies have also impressed the staff.

"I'm very pleased with where we are as a unit right now," cornerbacks coach Rod Chance said. "We've got a lot of guys that are going to step onto the field for the first time in their Oregon careers."

"Obviously we've been blessed to have had some of



Eric Evans via UO Athletics, file

**Oregon safety Steve Stephens IV (7) picks off a pass intended for tight end Moliki Mataavao (8) during practice at Autzen Stadium in Eugene on April 17. Stephens is among the young Oregon players competing for added playing time this fall with much of the Ducks' secondary departing for the NFL.**

the defensive backs we've had here for the past three our four years, but at the same time we're very excited to see these young men put themselves in position to make plays."

While opposing quarterbacks mostly avoided throwing in Lenoir's direction after the senior cornerback opted back in for the 2020 season, Wright took advantage of all of the action by leading the Pac-12 with nine passes defended.

Chance acknowledge that the cornerback starting opposite Wright against Fresno State on Sept. 4 at Autzen Stadium should be ready to get tested early and often.

"I'm excited for the opportunity," James said of possibly replacing Lenoir full-time after getting limited snaps subbing in last season. "I feel I've been taught and coached into this position I'm about to acquire."

I feel that I'm ready for it. My coaches will have me ready for it. I'm just going to take over the opportunity and enjoy it."

Hill had 20 tackles, four passes defended and the two interceptions in six games played last season.

The 6-foot-1, 200-pound sophomore is also expected to play an important role in first-year defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter's scheme.

"My football knowledge is growing every day," Hill said of the transition to playing for DeRuyter and new safeties/nickel coach Marcel Yates. "I'm starting to see the concepts easier. I feel like it's been pretty easy, to be honest."

McKinley was third on the team with 41 tackles. The savvy sophomore also had an interception, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and two passes defended.

Happle turned the UCLA game around by returning an interception for a touchdown on the final play of the first half. Bennett had two tackles for loss and a sack last season. Stephens has been making plays consistently this spring.

"On the back end, I think our guys did a nice job developing," DeRuyter said. "We've got speed, we've recruited a bunch of length and some of the new guys coming in have been impressive so far."

Manning was a five-star recruit in the 2020 class who was limited to one game due to injury as a true freshman. Bridges started out at safety but is now turning heads at cornerback entering his third year in the program.

"Trikweze is probably one of my surprises of the spring. I think he has done a really good job in terms of making his presence felt," Chance said. "I think what Dontae realized (last season) is college football moves very fast, and sometimes what you see in those situations is confirming what your own personal ability is. I think he saw, 'Hey, I belong!'"

Davies and safeties Jeffrey Bassa and Daymon David are among the early enrollees determined to make an immediate impact. Other members of the 2021 recruiting class expected to join the secondary this summer are cornerbacks Avante Dickerson and Darren Barkins.

Oregon has practices on Thursday and Friday before the spring game on Saturday at Autzen Stadium (2 p.m., Pac-12 Networks).

Youth sports

Continued from A5

Maggie Williams of Summit High ran 800 meters with a mask on last week. Rather, she ran exactly 797 meters and then fell on her face. Williams was so deprived of oxygen by the finish that her arms dropped to her sides. She couldn't hear. She couldn't see. Her coach, Dave Turnbull, had seen runners push their limits before. But this was different.

"I've been doing this for 31 years," he told me, "and I've never seen anybody right below the finish line basically lose consciousness."

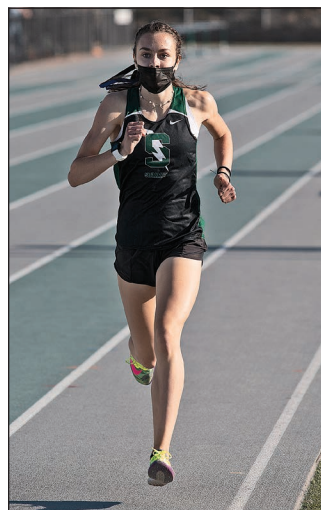
She collapsed and tumbled across the finish line. Spectators feared she'd died. That's what it took to get our state officials to change a mandate that never should have been on the books to begin with. The science just doesn't support kids masking up while running a race outdoors. It's not complicated. Wear a mask to the start line, then remove it, then put it back on after competition — just like other states.

It's what should be done from the start in all non-contact sports. (And by the way, do they know what a contact sport is?)

Parents remain frustrated. Athletes feel helpless and voiceless. Coaches and the OSAA have struggled in the last year to get sound answers to questions that would rectify basic flaws in logic. This sports columnist occasionally gets a reply from a spokesperson in the Governor's office. But I was made aware of where sports stands on last Friday. In the wake of that collapse on the track, I attended the Governor's virtual news conference to ask one question — can we get this rule changed before some kid in our state dies?

I raised my hand and waited. And waited. And waited. Nobody ever called on me. The news conference ended. I went to the weekend wondering why this youth sports stuff that affects so many Oregonians is unimportant to the Oregon Health Authority and Gov. Brown.

I know how parents, athletes and coaches in our state feel. They've been ignored and dismissed too long. They've been marginalized by leadership that hasn't taken the time to think



Courtesy Jon Tapper, file

**Summit's Maggie Williams runs in the 800 meters on her way to breaking the school record on April 21 before collapsing at the finish line.**

much about them or consider the logistics of the youth sports being played. They simply don't understand you and haven't taken the time to invite anyone in the room that really does.

The Governor and OHA have made a habit of walking back bad policy when it comes to sports in the last year. They've re-evaluated, again and again. Great. But what they really have is a blind spot for sports. We can all see it.

Over 60 or have a disability?

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Aging and Disability Resource Connection of OREGON  
1-855-ORE-ADRC  
ADRCofOregon.org

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The Bulletin will feature your Mother's Day message in our classified section on Sunday, May 9!

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021:** Kind, soft-spoken and hardheaded, challenging situations never rattle you. This year, you get ahead in your professional endeavors by sheer force of will. Careful planning for the future sets you on a solid financial path that extends to retirement and beyond. Think about changing your residential situation, whether moving or refurbishing. If single, love is within earshot. If attached, compromise on key issues. CAPRICORN is ethical in work and play.

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

★★★★ Get closure on unfinished business lingering from a past relationship. An interest in subjects that exercise your intuition and psychic abilities will excite you. Order books, research documentaries and browse websites. Find people from whom you can learn. Tonight: Romantic evening.

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

★★★★ Breathe new life into a connection that has become routine. Everything can become run of the mill. Create new scenarios and adventures that you have never experienced before, either by yourself or with someone else. Tonight: Accept a spontaneous invitation.

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

★★★★ Put on your best face, even if you have doubts about a team project. If you must, fill in the gaps that someone else may have left out. Be discreet about transferring to another department or assignment. Tonight: Attend a webinar.

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

★★★★ Sign up for a competitive sporting event that suits your fitness level. Get a friend or romantic interest to join you. Ask someone younger for recommendations for a new device. Promise a gift in return for their help. Tonight: Detective series.

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

★★★★ Add networking events to your schedule, but consult those at home so there are no conflicts. Continue your search for relatives who moved away. Going through old photos brings faded memories alive and a smile to your face. Tonight: Lift weights.

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

★★★★ Trust your ability to bring ideas off the beaten track down to earth. If you make a presentation, all the right words will come through. Timing is everything. Know when to pause and listen. Tonight: Catch up with your BFF.

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

★★★★ The push and pull of watching your cash flow and the temptation to spend on unnecessary accessories can frazzle you. Give yourself a distraction that satisfies your love of quality but costs next to nothing. Tonight: Laugh out loud.

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

★★★★ Take credit for an important achievement. Others may not realize how vital you were to the project. Get noticed rather than always taking the back seat. Take a raincheck on a social invitation. Immediate family needs attention. Tonight: Video games.

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

★★★★ Pull someone aside to discuss a personal matter. Take the high road. Call on your ability to forgive and move on. Make an extensive journal entry. Some things are best left unsaid but need to be recorded. Tonight: Out with friends.

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

★★★★ Make a list of goals that are within your reach. Devise a plan of action you can follow to make it happen. Get a close friend to be a sounding board. Be prepared for honest feedback. Tonight: A new exercise routine.

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

★★★★ Patience and persistence get you through a long day. A sticking point in negotiating a work agreement could cause a temporary impasse. Keep talking, and your efforts to achieve consensus will prove successful. Tonight: Whip up a rich dessert.

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

★★★★ Proofread a blog post or important email you need to send. Take your time. You could overlook an important fact. Slow down and study all the details. Being methodical and organized will pay off. Tonight: Take out your warm-weather clothing.

Our online resources can help you start a fun DIY project, learn a new language, or find a job.

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