

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: We get our children and grandchildren together twice a year. Our oldest daughter is divorced and, unfortunately, has a significant other the rest of our family cannot stand. He's an arrogant, competitive know-it-all.

We have been around him only twice — the last two times the family got together. The second time was a disaster for the rest of us. Should we tell her we don't want to invite him this year, and how do we say it? Or should we not tell her?

— *Tentative in Florida*

Dear Tentative: Talk to your daughter about this. When you do, have handy a list of the ways he offended your family members at the gathering. Her significant other may be so self-centered he doesn't realize he's being obnoxious.

Ask her to ask him to dial back his need to compete, impress, cover for his own insecurity — whatever drives him. Then give him one more chance. If that fails, do not invite him again, and tell her why. You can always see your daughter separately, I assume, and so can her siblings.

Dear Abby: I had a relationship with a wonderful woman for almost six years. During the course of our relationship, I purchased a rather expensive precious stone — exactly what she wanted — with the intent of giving it to her as a promise ring. (Neither of us are fans of the institution of marriage.) We have since gone our separate ways, but we still communicate.

Because it was purchased for her, I am tempted to give her the stone. At the same time, I have entertained the

notion of keeping it and giving it to my future life partner, should I meet someone I care for that deeply. Your guidance would be greatly appreciated.

— *Romancing the Stone*

Dear Romancing: Promise rings symbolize the promise of a proposal of marriage. In the case of your former girlfriend, it didn't pan out. Because the two of you still communicate, why not mention to her that you have the stone and ask if she would like to have it. If she says no, you can always offer it to someone else, although I can't promise the lady will be eager to receive a souvenir of a failed relationship.

Dear Abby: A friend of mine has a 70-pound dog that behaves badly. When I visit her, it sprints out of the front door, barking, and jumps on my car. It has left 3 1/2-inch-long deep scratches on two of my vehicles. She yells at it, and eventually the dog stops, but not before jumping on me and leaving me muddled and snagged.

This friend is due to have a baby, and I am sure she will be inviting me over to meet the baby soon. How can I avoid further damage to my car and clothing without damaging my friendship?

— *Assaulted in Austin*

Dear Assaulted: The obvious answer is to find the courage to tell your friend you are willing to visit only if she confines her dog so it won't cause further damage to you and your property. And while you are at it, mention that you are concerned about her baby's safety. Her dog's lack of discipline poses a distinct danger to her defenseless and vulnerable little one.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 8 p.m. to 10:20 p.m. EDT today (5 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021: You are a cool, confident perfectionist. You are also mild-mannered, ambitious and hard-working. As your new year begins, you are entering a time of change in your life. Get ready to pivot in a major way. Welcome this, because it presents exciting opportunities for you to explore new ideas and ways of doing things. As you navigate these changes, your personal independence will be tested.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Today you feel optimistic about your future. You're happier when dealing with others, especially friends and members of groups and organizations. You also feel generous to others. (This is a good thing, because what goes around, comes around.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Whereas yesterday was a testy day with authority figures, today is different! Now parents, teachers and people in authority will sing your praises ("Moi?" "Yes, you.") One of the reasons you look so good to others is that you are confident, and you are kind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today you will do whatever is within your power to expand your experience of the world! Ideally, you want to travel. But if you can't physically travel, then you will travel through film, books, the media and talking to people from other backgrounds. It's a great day to study or finish an important paper or manuscript. Yes!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Financial discussions will definitely benefit you today. Oh yeah, you'll be laughing all the way to the bank. However, avoid important financial discussions during the Moon Alert (see above.) This is easy to do. Looking swell!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ This is a fantastic day to enjoy the company of partners and close friends. (We're talking spouses as well as professional contacts.) Because you are confident and you feel that you have nothing to fear, your good feelings will rub off onto others as well. Everyone will be happy to see you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ This is a good day for work-related travel. It's also an excellent day for any kind of group activities, Zoom meetings or interactions with others that are work-related or not. You will do well dealing with the public in large numbers. Trust your intuition!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Lucky you! This is a fun-loving, playful, lighthearted day! Enjoy talking to your kids, romantic partners and anyone related to sports events, the entertainment world or the hospitality industry. You feel happy because you know you're in the groove. Yeah!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Family discussions will go well today because people are happy to share their ideas and be in each other's company. In fact, you might decide to tackle a major renovation or an ambitious project that relates to home and family. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ When we change the way we see things, the things we see change. Today is a fantastic example of this. Because you are in a happier frame of mind, suddenly everything looks better. Enjoy short trips and dealings with siblings, neighbors and relatives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ It's a money day! (Music to your ears.) Look for ways to boost your earnings, because this is possible. You might find a better paying job. You might see ways to make money on the side. Dealings with distant or foreign interests are likely. Ka-ching!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ It doesn't get much better than this. Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with moneybags lucky Jupiter. ("We like!") You will enjoy the company of others, and you will get what you give in terms of kindness, assistance and generosity to others. Cool!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You are a sensitive sign, and today your concerns for the welfare of others, especially those who are less fortunate, are genuine. This could lead to metaphysical or spiritual insights on your part. You will find it rewarding if you can build a strong rapport with people who need your help.

NFL | ANALYSIS

After draft, some obstacles ahead

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

With a successful in-person draft in Cleveland behind it, the NFL inexorably moves on.

What's ahead might not go so smoothly as the selection process did on the shore of Lake Erie.

For one, the league and the players' union likely will be hassling over offseason programs for, well, the rest of the offseason.

For another, while Commissioner Roger Goodell and the 32 team owners rather loudly are embracing the idea of full stands come the regular season, there are far too many uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic that are still a significant factor.

As for major storylines for the teams, no need to look beyond Green Bay up north and Houston down south.

Offseason programs

This one could get ugly, and relatively soon.

Although the NFL pushed back in-person attendance for meetings and OTAs, which are optional anyway, until later this month, the NFL Players Association wants to do something virtually no else does: Go back to 2020. At least when it comes to mandatory events, particularly minicamps.

Last year, the offseason programs were all done virtually and training camp was pushed back because of the pandemic. This year, organized team activities can begin May 24 for 10 sessions, and minicamps can be held until June 18.

NFLPA President JC Tretter, a center with the Browns, has campaigned for eliminating all of that.



Jeff Haynes/AP Images for Panini
A Browns fan wearing a pumpkin mask takes a selfie with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell during the NFL Draft on Friday in Cleveland.

"The good news for our sport is that while the NFL season looked and felt noticeably different from previous years," Tretter has written on the NFLPA website, "we learned that the game of football did not suffer at the expense of protecting its players more than ever before."

"Our process is to follow the science on what is safest for our guys, and many of the changes this past year — like no in-person offseason workouts/practices, the extended acclimation period before training camp and no preseason games — gave us a year of data that demonstrates maintaining some of these changes long term is in the best interest of the game."

The battle lines could be drawn for June's minicamps. The union could advise its members not to attend, but the teams can hand down hefty fines to those players who, basically, opt out.

Preseason games

The owners make too much money off these exhibition games to totally eliminate

them. Getting them to drop from four to three per team (not counting the Hall of Fame game) took adding a 17th regular-season game.

Coaches want them to help set their rosters and find their starters. Rookies need them to become acclimated to the pros before the real stuff kicks off. Free agents joining new teams are helped in their adjustments by preseason matches.

At least that's what we are told.

If the union is to make a stand about the work schedule, minicamps are more likely to be the focal point than boycotting preseason games. Revenues from preseason games are factored into the salary cap, so fewer games means less revenue all around.

Attendance

Goodell and the league's medical staff wisely and repeatedly make their decisions regarding practice facilities, stadiums and games based on the latest medical science and municipality health rules. His bosses — that would be the team owners — can be more pushy as far as getting people in the stands.

It's unlikely that the commissioner would back down in this area, even if a franchise in a "more open" state such as Texas or Florida, pushed for attendance beyond what the league itself deems appropriate and safe.

Citing Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's chief medical officer, and his staff, Goodell often refers back to their work in getting the 2020 schedule and postseason completed on time. Don't look for him to abandon that approach regardless of the potential pushback from one or several clubs.

Seahawks

Continued from A5

"Just extremely explosive. Can really throttle his speed," Schneider told reporters Saturday. "We're getting a guy that can play a number of different positions."

The Seahawks added to their offensive line by selecting Forsythe with a sixth-round pick (No. 208) out of the University of Florida. Forsythe is a massive

guy — 6-foot-8, 308 pounds with 34 3/8-inch arms and size 10 hands. The Seahawks traded up from their seventh-round position to select Forsythe.

"He's had over 1,000 pass rushes against him in the SEC, his numbers are really good. His stats are really good in pass protection," Seattle head coach Pete Carroll told reporters Saturday. "He can come off the football, he runs pretty well. He runs well for a big guy. So, he

moves all right. We just have to get him where he's coming off the football the way we want to."

Adding Forsythe marks the continuation of the Seahawks' effort to improve their offensive line, three months after Wilson expressed frustration in February about getting hit too often.

The Seahawks traded for guard Gabe Jackson and resigned center Ethan Pocic in March. Jackson is expected to play at right guard and Damien

Lewis will move from right to left guard. Veteran Duane Brown will return at left tackle and Brandon Shell and Cedric Ogbuehi will compete at right tackle. Pocic and Kyle Fuller will also do battle in camp.

"We are pleased with where we are," Carroll told reporters. "In particular with the depth and the competition."

Wilson has expressed his approval of the additions in a series of posts on social media.

Beavers

Continued from A5

"In anything you realize that change is inevitable," Rueck said last week. "... It's part of the deal. It's part of what we do and it's part of life, and I always put relationships over circumstances and so while certainly you're sad to see people go if it's before you hoped or whatever my own personal vision of it was, it's not about that, it's just the reality."

"And so it creates opportunity. And so I'm grateful for the time I have with everybody I get to work with and coach and I'm excited about the possibilities that those opportunities create."

Both Holsinger and Faulkner spent the past five seasons on the staff. Holsinger took over as the head coach at Montana while Faulkner joined new Washington coach Tina Langley as an assistant.

Rueck said he is happy for both of his now former coaches but it's never easy to see people you work with day in and day out move on.

"It's just like a senior graduating," Rueck said. "You're just so thankful for the time and you hope they loved every second of it. And here they go off onto the next adventure."

It's been five years since Rueck went searching for a new member of the staff. It's a bit of new territory but he said he knows the right people are out there and whoever comes in will bring plenty of value to the program in their own way.

"Here's an opportunity to find the perfect people to come in and fit into the puzzle now where I'm hoping that they will add new, maybe different, but they'll add to our program in different ways than anybody's done before, which is exciting to me," Rueck said.

One attribute that Rueck says he has and will always put the most stock into when it comes to finding coaches is their passion to be relational.

"People who will help me continue to build upon the vision of this program," he said. "Jonas (Chatterton) has done a great job of that for seven

years. Katie and Brian did a great job representing us and our vision and enhanced our vision for five. And so I will find two more that will certainly help me continue that process."

Rueck admits it was tough to see Goforth and Samuel leave after just one year. But that seems to be the norm across the women's college basketball landscape, especially after the past year dealing with the pandemic.

Still, Rueck said he wants to learn from every situation and find ways to make sure players feel like Oregon State is the right fit.

"I love that Sasha was here for a year, I love that Savannah was here for a year," Rueck said. "I love those people, I think they are great. I thought we were a great fit, of course. I love that we had Jaz for three years."

"It was their choice in their time to move on, and I'm not going to question it, that's not my job or my role. My role is to be a mentor as best I can, if

they want me to give advice, help them as much as I can, surround them with great people, but then if they need to move on, they need to move on."

"I'm sad, certainly, that goes against the vision I had for both of them. I mean, I pictured them as seniors on senior day in front of a crazy Beaver Nation going nuts like Beaver Nation does, and I want that for everybody I recruit. So there's some mourning, I'll tell you that, there's some mourning to get over because the vision I had for them is over. But I don't think anybody really cares about that but me and so I just say thank you. I loved having them here, and I wish them the best."

While Rueck has just begun the search for new coaches, he has already added two players to replace the three that left early.

The Beavers signed San Diego State grad transfer Tea Adams and incoming freshman AJ Marrotte, who was origi-

nally committed to Washington but changed her mind after the coaching change.

While it is not official, the Beavers reportedly will add Saint Mary's grad transfer Emily Coddling for next season.

All three would fill the guard/wing position.

Those additions and some of the verbal commits they have for the 2022 class — coaches are not permitted to discuss any players who have yet to sign with a program — has Rueck feeling excited and encouraged.

"I don't know how I could feel a whole lot better about our scenario," Rueck said. "I love who we have, I love who we're adding, I feel like we've been led to perfect complements to go with the group that we have returning. Just amazing people fill this roster. It's hard to keep my enthusiasm down, actually, because I just love working with them. I know who's coming and I think we're going to be really, really good."

Attention Parents of 2021 Grads!

Help make some memories!

The Bulletin is publishing a special Class of 2021 Graduation section on May 30 to celebrate graduating Central Oregon high school students.

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