

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: I live in an apartment and recently had a serious leak come through my bathroom ceiling. I called maintenance and texted my upstairs neighbor, who asked me when they were coming. I responded that I didn't know and I wasn't sure whether they'd have to go up to her apartment or not.

Well, they went to her apartment first. She was VERY upset and messaged me a dozen more times to let me know how stressed she was, that she was crying and afraid she would get evicted from her apartment because she has a dog she failed to put on her lease. She ended by saying "next time" I should let her know in advance.

Abby, I DID let her know. But I guess she wants more notice next time she causes an emergency, so she'll have more time to hide her dog. So — I'm supposed to let my apartment get more water damage to give her time to hide an animal she should've put on her lease years ago and be paying pet rent for? I feel like she was trying to make me feel bad when she's the one who is wrong for being irresponsible.

Why do I have to cater to her needs first? Should I feel bad?

— *Leaky Mess in the West*

Dear Leaky Mess: You do not have to accept the guilt trip your neighbor laid on you or "cater" to her. You handled the situation appropriately and have nothing to apologize for. When the "good neighbor policy" was written, she must have been out to lunch.

Dear Abby: I got COVID from a friend who came to our book club even though her husband was ill. When she texted us a few days later about his positive test, I told her I was now sick.

She called and left a message that she felt bad if she had given me COVID, but she has shown no concern since. I have had long-term COVID chest pain for three months, but she's never sent a card or called to see how I am. I reached out to her several times and even brought her a birthday gift, but she doesn't seem to care that I'm not well.

It's awkward because we're neighbors and in several groups together. How can I save this friendship?

— *Recovering in California*

Dear Recovering: How can YOU save this friendship? Lady, YOU are the injured party. This woman may be a neighbor, but she isn't acting like a friend. Call her and clear the air about how the situation has made you feel. When you see her, be civil and keep your distance. If she had been less self-centered, she wouldn't have exposed you and the other book club members to what her husband had — even if it was "only" a common cold.

Dear Abby: What are the three most important things parents should instill in their children in their formative years?

— *Wondering in Arizona*

Dear Wondering: In my opinion, the three most important things would be empathy, that they are loved and curiosity.

OLYMPIC TRIALS | GYMNASTICS

USA Gymnastics trying to move past Nassar as Trials begin

BY WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — USA Gymnastics is trying to shift the narrative away from the Larry Nassar scandal as the Olympic Trials are set to begin Thursday. President Li Li Leung wants to talk about the progress it has made over the last three years. The safeguards it is putting in place to prevent sexual abuse. The programs that focus on education and empowerment. The emphasis on changing a culture that produced plenty of medals but at a sometimes astronomical cost both physically and emotionally to the athletes that won them.

Yet the cloud that's engulfed the organization since the first survivors of abuse at the hands of the former national team doctor lingers.

While Simone Biles and the rest of the hopefuls looking to join the sport's biggest star in Tokyo next month spent Wednesday preparing for the U.S. Olympic Trials, a few feet away Leung acknowledged true forward momentum will be difficult to attain as long as the mediation process with Nassar's survivors remains unresolved.

USA Gymnastics filed for bankruptcy in November 2018 with the hope of having a settlement reached within 18 months.

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed progress significantly and Leung finds herself in the same position now as she was when she took over in March 2019: limited by what she can say — and in some instances, what she can do — out of fear of the legal implications.

"Obviously, we would love to be out of bankruptcy (so) that we can be able to more freely move forward with all of the things that we have been working on and to not have this be a part of the narrative," Leung said. "But at the end of the day, what has happened is something that we are learning from and we're using the past to inform how we go forward."

Leung remains "steadfast"



AP file photos

At left, USA Gymnastics president and CEO Li Li Leung speaks during the Winter Cup gymnastics competition in Indianapolis in February. At right, Simone Biles completes her dismount in the vault during the U.S. Gymnastics Championships on June 6 in Fort Worth, Texas.

in her belief that a settlement with the dozens of Nassar survivors will be reached, hopefully by the end of the year. A settlement would allow the organization to exit from bankruptcy and — at least symbolically — create a little distance from one of the darkest chapters in the history of the Olympic movement.

Despite instituting a handful of initiatives, including providing athletes with a platform that allows them to anonymously provide feedback in real time on everything from conditions at national team camp to the cut of their leotards, progress from a public perception standpoint has only moved in fits and starts.

Several Nassar survivors — including Biles — have stressed the need for a more detailed examination of the circumstances that allowed Nassar's

behavior to run unchecked for so long.

Leung pointed out that by

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— **Li Li Leung, USA Gymnastics president and CEO**

her count USA Gymnastics has fully cooperated with "at least" six different entities that have looked into the Nassar situation. She added that, by definition, if USA Gymnastics pays for any part of an investigation it is not truly independent but offered "we are open to any investigative body to come in and investigate us."

While USA Gymnastics has preached the need for transparency in hopes of regaining the trust of its membership, things haven't always gone smoothly.

Women's national team coordinator Tom Forster created a small firestorm following the national championships in Texas earlier this month when he declined to speculate on the petition status for gymnasts

like 2017 world champion Morgan Hurd and 2005 world champion Chellsie Memmel.

Forster said at the time he wouldn't feel comfortable doing so until after he spoke to the athletes. The reality, however, is that Forster did speak to the athletes, leading the organization to later clarify several days later that he didn't talk about the petition process because he wasn't sure if he had the athletes' OK to do so.

Asked Wednesday if she felt Forster lied, Leung defended the man chosen in June 2018 to take over a program that's spent a decade at the top of the sport. Leung pointed out that "99.9%" of the athletes in the organization are not in the elite program and that a true culture change can't just be limited to the gymnasts in the spotlight.

"It's about all these other disciplines that fall under us and that we have a responsibility to serve as well," Leung said. "So everything that we do from like a guiding principle standpoint is that we're looking at things through the lens of 'How does this affect the Level 9 athlete or the Level 5 athlete and even the Excel athletes at the end of the day, when we make policies and procedures in place?'"

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: After 6:15 a.m. PDT today, there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Full Moon in Capricorn peaks at 11:40 a.m. PDT.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021: You're careful, tactful and hardworking. You are also creative and artistic, and have the self-discipline to use these talents. Home and family will always be a prime focus for you. This year you are harvesting the seeds you previously planted, which means that for most of you, this is a successful year. Expect accolades and recognition, plus material success as well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ The Full Moon today makes you feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your career and public reputation. Today you cannot ignore home and family. And so it goes. Tonight: Your situation improves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be careful, because the energy of today's Full Moon can make this an accident-prone day for you. Therefore, think before you speak or act. Pay special attention if you are walking, jogging, biking or driving. Do not be distracted. Tonight: Things are easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Today's Full Moon might bring some kind of financial issue to a head for your sign. This could relate to earnings. It also might relate to your debt or your involvement with the wealth of someone else, perhaps your partner. After today, you might be able to improve things. Tonight: Solutions are likely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Today the only Full Moon all year that occurs opposite your sign is taking place. This will definitely create tension between you and partners, spouses and close friends. Do not jump the gun. Patience is your best friend. Tonight: Relations are warmer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ The Full Moon today might create some tension at work, especially with co-workers. Perhaps you are the only one who feels this tension and you are projecting it onto others. Do what you can to stay calm, and decide to give everything a sober, second thought. Tonight: Steady as she goes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Be patient with friends today, and also be patient with groups and clubs, because today's Full Moon can make people edgy and too emotional. Likewise, parents should be patient with their kids. Meanwhile, your kids might have hissy fits and meltdowns. Tonight: Things calm down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Some Full Moons are easier than others. (This one, not so much.) You feel pulled in two directions — home and family versus your job and your career. What to do? Today you cannot ignore your job and your public reputation. Tonight: Be patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ This is an accident-prone day for your sign, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Heightened emotions caused by today's Full Moon energy can distract you and create a problem either verbally or physically. Therefore, be mindful. Tonight: Slow down and take it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Some kind of financial situation will come to a head today because of the Full Moon. Very possibly, it relates to your responsibilities for someone else or perhaps money that you owe. Hopefully, after the Full Moon peaks, these problems will diminish. Tonight: Take a breather.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Today the only Full Moon in your sign all year is taking place, which means your emotions are all over the place. It might not look like this to others, but you will feel it. Be kind to yourself and don't make hasty decisions. Tonight: Be safe and go gently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Today's Full Moon might create problems related to your health, your pet, your job or any task that you set for yourself today. Generally, the Full Moon brings things to a head, forcing you to decide one way or the other. Tonight: Tread carefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Parents should be aware that this is an accident-prone day for their kids. Furthermore, their kids might feel upset because of the Full Moon energy. Meanwhile, this is also a challenging day for romantic couples because the Full Moon stirs up extreme emotions. Don't act. Wait until things settle down. Tonight: Warm discussions with a friend.

Golf

Continued from A5

Thirteen players won the the first 13 events on the schedule this year until Nelly Korda last week became the first multiple winner.

Saso added to that three weeks ago at Olympic Club in San Francisco, seizing on a late collapse by Lexi Thompson and beating Nasa Hataoka of Japan in a playoff.

Just like that, Saso is the No. 9 player in the world, leads the LPGA Tour money list with her \$1 million prize from the Women's Open and is headed to the Olympics.

She still hasn't watched highlights of her victory. Saso doesn't like watching video of herself.

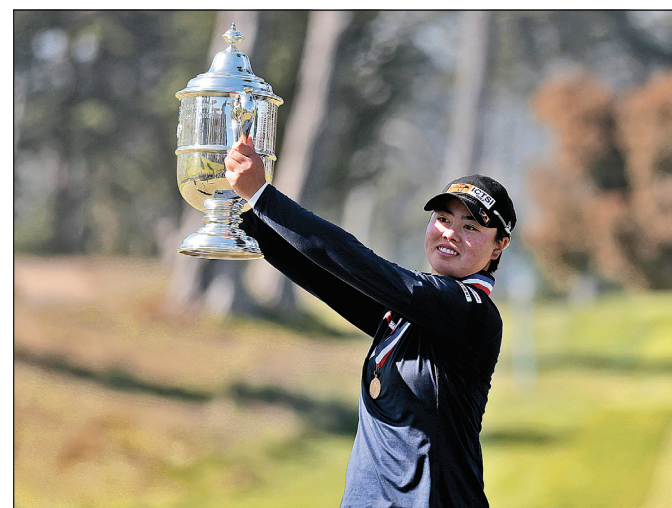
"I'd rather watch Rory's," she said with a laugh.

That would be Rory McIlroy, her golfing idol after whom she tried to pattern her swing. Saso was a surprise visitor to Torrey Pines last week at the U.S. Open, where the USGA arranged for her to walk a few holes with McIlroy during a practice round.

Sophia Popov, another surprise major champion at Royal Troon last year in the Women's British Open, recalls seeing Saso on television earlier this year in Hawaii. The swing got her attention ("As pure as it gets," she said) along with the result (tie for sixth) and her charm.

"Those are the personalities and the players that we can only hope to have on tour, and so seeing her when they told her that she was going to have LPGA status I think was the coolest thing," Popov said. "I'm like, 'How surprised can you be? You just won the U.S. Open. You're clearly one of the best players out here.' I just think it's awesome."

Popov knows the feeling of going from no status on the LPGA Tour to major champion. Because of the pandemic, she had to wait a few months



Jed Jacobsohn/AP file

Yuka Saso celebrates her victory after the final round of the U.S. Women's Open at The Olympic Club on June 6 in San Francisco.

for her next crack at a major in the Women's PGA last year at Aronimink.

Her expectations changed immediately, mainly because she knew she was playing well

and she loves the challenge of a major championship.

It was all about hitting the right spots, putting yourself in the right positions and being able to score, but as well just

protecting from higher numbers," Popov said. "That's a situation that I like to be in."

That's what Atlanta Athletic Club will present.

The course measures 6,740 yards, and PGA setup guru Kerry Haigh has options to make the par 5s reachable or three-shot holes, along with a new tee on the par-4 sixth hole that can play about 250 yards.

"I can't wait to see what the best players in the world ... how they're going to play because you've really got to think on those on every hole," Haigh said.

Sei Young Kim is the defending champion and recent history is not in her favor to repeat. The last 19 majors on the LPGA Tour were won by 18 players.

It's another sign of increasing depth, and with Saso, the LPGA Tour only added to the pool.



Coming this SUNDAY

The new Pulse of Oregon in The Bulletin Sunday, June 27.

The Bulletin | EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY