

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 am an old man, married to a wonderful woman who does everything for me. I'm in poor health and don't expect to live much longer. My wife is a youthful 80. She's trim, pretty, active, hardworking, loving and sexy. She enjoys skiing, fishing, gardening, board games, puzzles etc. She is the most organized person I have ever known. She likes to cook and entertain and is excellent at both.

Although she has quite a few friends — widowed and otherwise — we don't know any men who would be acceptable as a future mate after I'm gone.

She's financially independent and meticulous about keeping track of expenses. Neither of us is formally religious.

To be blunt, I can't imagine a better wife for someone special. I would like us to meet a man, probably in his 70s, preferably widowed, physically active, romantically inclined, energetic, capable with tools and household projects, not addicted to drugs or alcohol, financially independent and preferably politically conservative who would be a potential mate for her after I am gone.

We have discussed this to a limited extent, but she has expressed little interest in the subject.

I can't imagine she won't experience a renaissance after this albatross is off of her neck. She has more than earned it. If you have any suggestions, I would appreciate them.

— *Thankful In Washington*

Dear Thankful: You are clearly a caring and protective husband who is deeply in love with and concerned for his wife. However, as much as you would like to screen the applicants to fill the vacancy that your death would create, there are some things a person must do for themselves.

When you pass on, your wife may not feel ready to move on according to your timetable. Please let her make this decision for herself when the time is right.

P.S. I am sorry you are not in better health, because it seems you and your wife have a strong and loving relationship that will not be easy to replace.

Dear Abby: My grandson is in a relationship with a girl who manipulates him and abuses him emotionally. I told my grandson what she is doing, but he doesn't see it. Because of that, neither one of them is speaking to me.

My grandson was a caring, happy person until he met her. Now he's withdrawn. He is working, but she is not. They are struggling to make a life for themselves.

When I ask how he's doing, he just says OK and nothing more. Is there anything I can do to make him see what she is doing to him?

— *It's Obvious in Iowa*

Dear Obvious: No. You have done everything you can by trying to enlighten your grandson, who, it appears, "love" has blinded. Now it's time for you to accept that nothing will change until he wakes up and smells the coffee.

TODAY
IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 21, the 111th day of 2022. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1975**, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

In **1649**, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In **1836**, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In **1910**, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In **1926**, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In **1930**, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In **1976**, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

In **1980**, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud.

In **1998**, astronomers announced in Washington that they had discovered possible signs of a new family of planets orbiting a star 220 light-years away, the clearest evidence to date of worlds forming beyond our solar system.

In **2015**, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012. (Morsi collapsed and died during trial on espionage charges in June 2019.)

In **2016**, Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57.

In **2018**, Barbara Bush was remembered as the "first lady of the Greatest Generation" during a funeral in Houston attended by four former U.S. presidents and hundreds of others. Actor Verne Troyer, best known for his role as "Mini-Me" in the "Austin Powers" movies, died in Los Angeles at the age of 49.

In **2020**, researchers reported that a malaria drug that had been widely touted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus showed no benefit in large study of its use in U.S. veterans hospitals.

Ten years ago: Charles W. "Chuck" Colson, 80, described as the "evil genius" of the Nixon administration, died in northern Virginia. Phil Humber threw the first perfect game in the majors in almost two years, leading the Chicago White Sox to a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Five years ago: A San Francisco power outage blamed on the failure of a circuit breaker that sparked a fire at a power substation stranded people in elevators and left tens of thousands in the dark.

One year ago: A Black man, Andrew Brown Jr., was shot and killed by sheriff's deputies in North Carolina while they were serving drug-related warrants at his home in Elizabeth City. (A prosecutor cleared the deputies, saying they were justified because Brown had struck a deputy with his car while ignoring commands to show his hands and get out of the vehicle.) President Joe Biden announced new employer tax credits to encourage people who were reluctant to be inoculated to get the COVID-19 vaccine. An Indonesian submarine with 53 crew members aboard disappeared after its last reported dive off the resort island of Bali; officials later concluded that the sub sank and broke apart, killing all those on board.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 96. Actor-comedian-writer Elaine May is 90. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 83. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 75. Actor Patti LuPone is 73. Actor Tony Danza is 71. Actor James Morrison is 68. Actor Andie MacDowell is 64. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 63. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 63. Actor-director John Cameron Mitchell is 59. Rapper Michael Franti is 56. Actor Leslie Silva is 54. Actor Toby Stephens is 53. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 52. Actor Rob Riggle is 52. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 52. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 47. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale is 45. Rock musician Dave Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 44. Actor James McAvoy is 43. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 42. Actor Terrence J is 40. Actor Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 39. Actor Christoph Sanders is 34. Actor Frank Dillane is 31. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 25.

NFL

Most teams welcomed combine's comeback but some snubbed it

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Comparison shopping and face-to-face contact with college prospects returned to the NFL this year after the 2021 scouting combine was scuttled by the pandemic.

Talent evaluators welcomed back college pro days and private workouts even as the COVID-19 broadside entered its third year. The core of the league's back-to-normal blueprint was the return of the NFL scouting combine to Lucas Oil Field in Indianapolis.

No more relying solely on virtual visits like last year.

"The Zoom meetings we have with players or with reporters or anybody else, the engagement just isn't the same as being here," declared Jaguars general manager Trent Baalke, who again owns the top pick in the NFL draft.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said that while teams have fused Zoom calls and FaceTime interviews into the spring evaluation process, "I like seeing players up close and personal, sitting down with them and watching tape with them."

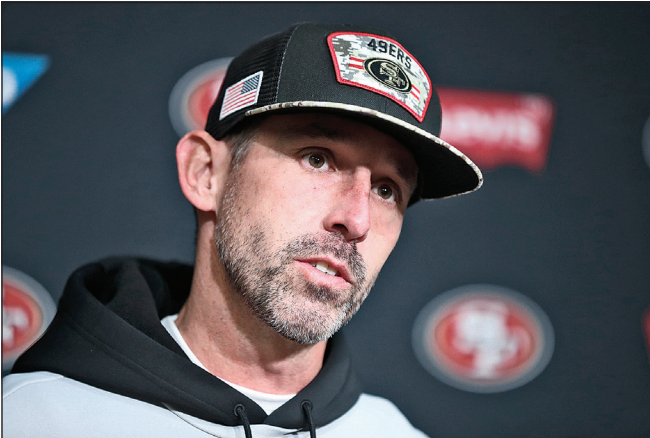
Yet, not all head coaches embraced the combine's comeback.

Sean McVay, Kyle Shanahan and Robert Saleh all skipped this year's event in which 324 players showed off some combination of their athleticism, fitness, skill, speed, quickness, strength and savvy for scouts, coaches and general managers in attendance.

"I think it's still valuable from the standpoint of watching these guys all move around on the field together," said NFL Network analyst and former pro scout Daniel Jeremiah, who calls the scouting combine the ultimate cluster-buster when it comes to teams setting their draft boards.

Say you have four cornerbacks with the same grade in your third-round stack, Jeremiah said, "and they're out there on the same field at the same time doing the same drills. It really helps to be able to separate and evaluate those guys."

That could prove pivotal this year with a pool of prospects much deeper than last year's.



Wade Payne/AP file

San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan answers questions after a game against the Tennessee Titans last season in Nashville, Tennessee. Shanahan was among the head coaches who skipped the combine.

"This year especially, the difference between the 15th player and the 60th player in the draft is very small, and teams are going to have those guys in all different orders," Jeremiah said.

Hitting on draft picks has always been a harbinger of success, although the Rams just won the Super Bowl with a roster built through trades and free agency.

The Rams don't have a selection until the third round because they traded their first-round pick to Detroit for Matthew Stafford and their second to Denver for Von Miller. So, GM Les Snead, who famously wore a T-shirt at the championship parade mocking his team's lack of draft picks, joined McVay in skipping out on the combine.

San Francisco GM John Lynch, whose first pick is the 29th selection of Round 2, said Shanahan and his staff snubbed the combine so they could integrate new assistants in Santa Clara while evaluating prospects with their personnel department and scouts in Indianapolis.

"Kyle and I talked and we felt like his time and his staff's time were best spent there," Lynch said. "The great thing about what we've learned over the last couple of years is when we're interviewing players, those respective coaches and coordinators and Kyle will get on the Zooms. And so even though they aren't here, they are here."

Virtually. Saleh and his staff coached in the Senior Bowl. Combined

with the new primetime workouts creating more downtime for a lot of position coaches during the day, Saleh figured the Jets were better served staying in Florham Park.

Saleh scoffed at the notion that the Jets missed out by not being in the room with prospects during their interviews.

"If you're going into the combine thinking a 20-minute interview is going to make or break whether or not you're going to give a young man millions and millions of dollars, shame on you," Saleh said. "We still have pro days. We still have private workouts. We still have our 30 visits. We still have so many more conversations, phone conversations, Zooms."

Chargers GM Tom Telesco said the 20-minute in-person interviews with players are "less valuable than if you had a guy on a Zoom for an extended amount of time. It is only 18-20 minutes here, you can't figure a lot out in that time and you can't get a feel for a player in that time."

Others disagree. Ravens GM Eric DeCosta is among those who insist there's no substitute for the in-person interaction at the combine for those making the call when their team is on the clock. "I think the access to the players is critical ... to get a chance to assess things like growth, mindset, motivation, ability to overcome adversity, resiliency," DeCosta said.

Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said it was important for him to attend the combine because "I just value this time to be able to look the player in the eye."

Wimbledon

Continued from A5

"In the circumstances of this justified and unprecedented military aggression, it would be unacceptable for the Russian regime to derive any benefits from the involvement of Russian or Belarusian players with The Championships."

Russian athletes have been prevented from competing in many sports following their country's invasion of Ukraine. Belarus has aided Russia in the war.

Soccer, figure skating and track and field all banned Russian and Belarusian athletes and teams from their events because of the war. The Russian men's national soccer team was excluded from last month's World Cup qualifying playoffs, forcing them to miss a chance to reach this year's tournament in Qatar.

Wednesday's move signals the first time a tennis tournament has told players from Russia and Belarus they are not welcome — and the ATP was quick to criticize the All England Club for what the men's tennis tour called a "unilateral decision" and "unfair."

"Our sport is proud to operate on the fundamental principles of merit and fairness, where players compete as individuals to earn their place in tournaments," the ATP said in a statement, adding that the decision "has the potential to set a damaging precedent for the game."

The seven groups that run the sport around the world decided March 1 that players from those countries would be allowed to compete in WTA, ATP and Grand Slam tourna-



Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP file

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during Wimbledon in 2021.

ments but not under the name or flag of Russia or Belarus. Those two nations also were kicked out of the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup team competitions; Russia had been the reigning champion in both.

The French Open, which starts on May 22, will be the first Grand Slam tournament held since Russia invaded Ukraine in February and is expected to permit Russian and Belarusian players to compete — just as so-called "neutral" athletes who may not represent their countries.

The U.S. Tennis Association, which runs the U.S. Open, said Wednesday it has not made a decision about whether players from Russia and Belarus can compete at the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins on Aug. 29.

The All England Club said that if "circumstances change materially between now and June," it would "respond accordingly."

"We recognize that this is hard on the individuals affected, and it is with sadness that they will suffer for the actions of the leaders of the Russian regime," All England Club chairman Ian Hewitt said.

"We have very carefully considered the alternative measures that might be taken within the UK government guidance but, given the high profile environment of The Championships, the importance of not allowing sport to be used to promote the Russian regime and our broader concerns for public and player (including family) safety, we do not believe it is viable to proceed on any other basis at The Championships."

Some current and former tennis players from Ukraine — including two-time Grand Slam semifinalist Elina Svitolina and the recently retired Sergiy Stakhovsky — put up a statement on Twitter on Wednesday that called on the WTA, ATP and International Tennis Federation to ask players representing Russia and Belarus whether they support the invasion of Ukraine.

"In times of crisis, silence means agreeing with what is happening," the posts said. "We noticed that some Russian and Belarusian players at some point vaguely mentioned the war, but never clearly stating that Russia and Belarus started it on the territory of Ukraine."

YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022: You push yourself hard, and in doing so, you inspire others to achieve their goals. Despite your strong work ethic, you are playful and enjoy having a good time. This is a year of construction and building. This might apply in an external way or to internal structures that you want to introduce into your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Today professional and business concerns are your focus. In addition, for some reason your most intimate and personal life might be on public display. Like, what's with that? Perhaps it's a public argument. (It's hard to keep your shirt on when you need to get something off your chest.) Tonight: Patience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today you need to get outta Dodge. You want to be free of your daily routine and do something different for some fun stimulation. Travel would be an obvious choice. Enjoy meeting new friends, especially people who are different. Tonight: Good times.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today your emotional experiences will be more intense. Or possibly, you will attract someone to you who is very intense. ("Hi, Darth.") You might be envious of something that someone else owns, because you're focused on the wealth of others. It happens to us all. Tonight: Stay calm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Today the Moon is opposite your sign, which will draw your attention to your most personal relationships. Because of the placement of the Moon, conflicts will be more emotional. Guard against knee-jerk reactions when talking to others. Tonight: Stay chill.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Today you might have to put your own considerations second to the wants and needs of someone else. Don't worry; you're not being a martyr, it's just what's happening. Nevertheless, you will be productive, and this will give you a sense of reward and satisfaction. Tonight: Get organized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your fellow Earth sign, which balances your energy and gives you a warm feeling in your tummy. This is why you will project yourself more than usual when dealing with others. You also might feel more protective and nurturing to children. Tonight: Socialize.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Grab every chance to slip away to your own private place today so that you can enjoy solitude in beautiful surroundings — preferably with good food and drink. (One needs sustenance.) It might occur to you today just how much your habits control your life. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You have a strong desire to talk to others today and tell them your ideas and share your opinions. You might even want to teach somebody something. Certainly, you want conversations to be real, which is why you will avoid superficial chitchat. Tonight: Listen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ It's easy to identify with your possessions today. You might feel a strong attachment to something that you own. Certainly, you don't want to lend something to someone. You also might find yourself having to defend yourself about something, perhaps your values, to someone else. Tonight: Enjoy peace.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which can bring you a tiny bit of extra good luck. It also increases your need to relate to friends and loved ones, which is why you will be warm and sympathetic to others. You will be there if someone needs you. Tonight: You win!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today you will be happiest working alone or behind the scenes, because you need some time by yourself. Nevertheless, don't hesitate to communicate your deep feelings to someone who is willing to listen. We all need to be heard. (Is it time to send out for dark chocolate?) Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your emotional contact with a friend or a member of a group will be highlighted today. In part, this could be because you feel more protective and supportive about someone. Your strong connection with this person is important to you, which is why you might feel jealous if they pay attention to someone else. Tonight: Stay mellow.