

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: My 15-year-old daughter, “Nadia,” has been friends with another girl, “Kelly,” since they were 8. I have had my concerns about Kelly because she lies. She can also be very manipulative, and she hasn’t always treated Nadia well.

Nadia and I have had numerous conversations about this friend over the years, and I have expressed my feelings about Kelly’s behavior. Sometimes Nadia would acknowledge Kelly’s wrongdoings; other times she’d get upset and insist I was wrong. Either way, she seemed to have great loyalty to Kelly.

Over the years, Kelly’s mother, “Brittany,” and I became friends, we have grown very close. I allowed it to happen because I thought Kelly had matured. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Meanwhile, Nadia has been seeing more clearly what a difficult person Kelly is and is pulling away from her.

While I’m happy Nadia has found healthier friendships, I am worried about how this may affect my friendship with Brittany. She tends to be defensive about her kids and will probably not be able to see how much her daughter has hurt Nadia over the years. Advice?

— Mom Problem
In Massachusetts

Dear Mom: I do have some. STAY OUT OF IT. It’s common for childhood friendships to wane. Friendships cannot be forced. All it does is breed resentment. Unless Brittany raises the subject, avoid discussing it. Cross your fingers and hope that Kelly might not even realize Nadia is less available. If Brittany asks, say that the

girls’ friendship, like other teen relationships, seems to have run its course.

Dear Abby: My ex-husband has been incarcerated off and on for the last several years. The kids adore him and want nothing more than to spend time with him, even though I am the responsible parent who cares for them and provides for their needs.

I’m glad the kids are not angry with him, and I’m trying to be understanding about their need for love and acceptance from him (even though they are no longer young children). However, I can’t help feeling anxious, angry and jealous because, in spite of his many poor choices, they prefer spending time with him more than with me.

He has always been an irresponsible parent, and it crushes them each time he goes back to jail. No matter what, they run to his rescue whenever he needs something, be it money, transportation, etc. How can I handle this in the best way for the sake of my children without causing stress on them and our relationship?

— Stable Parent In California
Dear Parent: Please accept my sympathy. You have been forced into the role of the authoritarian parent, while your husband has adopted the role of loosey-goosey fun parent, which is how your children still regard him. It isn’t fair, and I feel for you. But until they wise up on their own, there’s nothing you can do about it. So try not to spend too much time dwelling on it. Live your life. When faced with a circumstance that’s not likely to change soon, that’s all anyone can do.

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 Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022: You are perceptive, eloquent and charming. You also have excellent comedic timing. You are innovative, optimistic and determined. Welcome opportunities for solitude this year, because this is a time of learning as well as teaching for you. Study will lead to deeper revelations about the meaning of life for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Guard against rash decisions that affect your wealth or something that you own. You might buy something impulsively. “I have to have it!” Or you might make an impulsive financial decision. Don’t do anything that you might regret later. Count to three before you decide. Tonight: Guard your possessions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is lined up with fiery Mars in your sign, which can make you highly emotional! You will be quick to react to others if you think they are slighting you or being critical. On the upside, you will be ready to act and go after whatever interests you. Tonight: Surprise!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might feel a bit confused today because strong feelings are building up within you, but they are at a subconscious level. For example, you might feel impulsive and not know why. You might overreact to something that someone says. (Your response might be viewed as inappropriate.) This influence is gone by tomorrow. Tonight: Feeling restless.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Be patient when dealing with friends and members of groups, because you might fly off the handle before you know what happens. You will be sensitive if anyone is critical of you. You also might feel competitive with someone even if there’s no reason. Relax. Tonight: Unusual friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ This is a tricky day if you’re dealing with bosses, parents, teachers or the police, because you might lose it. For starters, you feel sensitive and a bit irritable. Knowing this, you can make an effort not to react. You’re a natural actor; you can do this. Tonight: Feeling rebellious?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You have strong opinions today about controversial matters like politics, race and religion. Likewise, you have strong feelings about travel or dealing with other countries. Be aware that you have a short fuse, which means you might say something you later regret. Tonight: Travel changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You have strong feelings when it comes to inheritances, taxes, debt or shared property. In fact, you won’t hesitate to defend your best interests. The trick is to stand up for yourself but, at the same time, not alienate someone else. Tonight: Check your finances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is in a sign that is opposite from your sign, and at the same time, the Moon is also lined up with fiery Mars. This is the classic combo for testy relations with partners and close friends. Avoid aggressive people today. Nevertheless, defend yourself. Tonight: Patience.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Be patient with work colleagues today. You might be pushy about what you want because you want things to go your way. On the upside, you will take the initiative if necessary. Is it time to turn over a new leaf regarding your health? Tonight: Guard your pets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You will be courageous if you’re involved in a physical competition today because you feel feisty and energetic! However, when dealing with kids, pull in your reins and be gentle. Don’t come on too strong. Romantic relationships might be sticky. Tonight: Social plans change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Do what you can to keep the peace at home, because it’s very easy for you to overreact when dealing with family members today. This is because you are sensitive, especially to criticism. Or you might feel competitive with a family member. Stay chill. Tonight: A surprise at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Be careful, because today you can be hasty and impulsive. It’s all too easy for you to say or do something without thinking first. It will just happen! Knowing this ahead of time, be smart and think before you act or speak. Tonight: A change of routine.

TODAY
IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 21, the 202nd day of 2022. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On **July 21, 1925**, the so-called “Monkey Trial” ended in Dayton, Tennessee, with John T. Scopes found guilty of violating state law for teaching Darwin’s Theory of Evolution.

In **1861**, during the Civil War, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Virginia, resulting in a Confederate victory.

In **1944**, American forces landed on Guam during World War II, capturing it from the Japanese a few weeks later.

In **1954**, the Geneva Conference concluded with accords dividing Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In **1969**, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module.

In **1972**, the Irish Republican Army carried out 22 bombings in Belfast, Northern Ireland, killing nine people and injuring 130 in what became known as “Bloody Friday.”

In **1998**, astronaut Alan Shepard died in Monterey, California, at age 74; actor Robert Young died in Westlake Village, California, at age 91.

In **1999**, Navy divers found and recovered the bodies of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, in the wreckage of Kennedy’s plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Martha’s Vineyard.

In **2002**, Ernie Els won the British Open in the first sudden-death finish in the 142-year history of the tournament.

In **2008**, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, one of the world’s top war crimes fugitives, was arrested by Serbian security forces.

In **2009**, prosecutors in Cambridge, Massachusetts, dropped a disorderly conduct charge against prominent Black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was arrested by a white officer at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in.

In **2011**, the 30-year-old space shuttle program ended as Atlantis landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after the 135th shuttle flight.

In **2016**, Donald Trump accepted the GOP presidential nomination with a speech in which he pledged he would restore safety, strictly curb immigration and save the nation from what he said was Hillary Clinton’s record of “death, destruction, terrorism and weakness.” The NBA moved the 2017 All-Star Game out of Charlotte because of its objections to a North Carolina law that limited anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

Ten years ago: The president of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, rejected calls for a minute of silence for the Israeli victims of the 1972 Munich massacre at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics. Staff Sgt. Luis Walker, an Air Force training instructor at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for crimes that included rape and sexual assault.

Five years ago: White House press secretary Sean Spicer abruptly quit over President Donald Trump’s decision to name financier Anthony Scaramucci as the new White House communications director. Escalating Israeli-Palestinian tensions over the Holy Land’s most contested shrine boiled over into violence that killed six people — three Palestinians in Jerusalem and three Israelis in a West Bank settlement.

One year ago: Public health officials said U.S. life expectancy fell by a year and a half in 2020, the largest one-year decline since World War II, due mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic. A day after he was extradited from New York, convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty in L.A. to four counts of rape and seven other sexual assault counts. Organizers of the Kennedy Center Honors announced that the 2021 honorees would be Motown Records creator Berry Gordy, “Saturday Night Live” mastermind Lorne Michaels, opera singer Justino Diaz, folk music legend Joni Mitchell, and actor-singer Bette Midler.

Today’s Birthdays: Movie director Norman Jewison is 96. Actor Leigh Lawson is 77. Singer Yusuf Islam (aka Cat Stevens) is 74. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 74. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian is 69. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 65. Actor Lance Guest is 62. Actor Matt Mulhern is 62. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 59. Retired soccer player Brandi Chastain is 54. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 53. Rock-soul singer Michael Fitzpatrick is 52. Actor Alysia Reiner is 52. Country singer Paul Brandt is 50. Christian rock musician Korey Cooper is 50. Actor Ali Landry is 49. Actor-comedian Steve Byrne is 48. Rock musician Tato Melgar is 45. Actor Justin Bartha is 44. Actor Josh Hartnett is 44. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 44. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 44. Country singer Brad Mates is 44. Actor Sprague Grayden is 42. Former MLB All-Star pitcher CC Sabathia is 42. Singer Blake Lewis is 41. Latin singer Romeo Santos is 41. Rock musician Johan Carlsson is 38. Actor Vanessa Lengies is 37. Actor Betty Gilpin is 36. Actor Rory Culkin is 33. Actor Jamie Waylett is 33. Figure skater Rachael Flatt is 30.

TRACK AND FIELD | WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

England’s Jake Wightman a surprise winner in 1,500m



David J. Phillip/AP

Jake Wightman, of Britain, celebrates after winning the men’s 1,500-meter run final ahead of Jakob Ingebrigtsen, of Norway, at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday in Eugene.

BY PAT GRAHAM

The Associated Press

EUGENE — The look of disbelief on British 1,500-meter champion Jake Wightman’s face as he crossed the finish line captured the evening best.

“Crazy,” he said.

Nothing quite went to script, yet everything seemed almost perfect on a wild Tuesday night at the world championships.

The in-stadium announcer for Wightman’s race was none other than his dad, Geoff. Handing Jake Wightman the gold medal after the race was none other than British middle-distance great Sebastian Coe, who also happens to be the World Athletics President and one of Wightman’s mentors.

“What else could I ask for?” Jake Wightman said.

Almost lost in all those good feelings was that Olympic champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway finished second in this one and his countryman, Karsten Warholm, seventh in the night’s last race, the 400-meter hurdles.

Wightman’s win arrived because he decided to take a chance and go all-out with about 200 meters to go.

“I thought, ‘I’m going to give this a go. If I end up finishing fourth, whatever. I gave it a go to try to win,’” Wightman said.

Other surprises included 100-meter champion Fred Kerley suffering a cramp in

the semifinals of the 200 and not advancing.

And Warholm’s loss — chalked up to a bad hamstring that’s been bugging him this season — was a win for Alison Dos Santos of Brazil. Not that huge of a surprise, though it did open the door for American Trevor Bassitt to take surprise third, then withstand a tackle from the silver medalist, teammate Rai Benjamin.

“Just amazing,” Benjamin said. “So proud of him.”

Warholm, Benjamin and Dos Santos have formed the Big Three in the event. So any time they don’t end up on the podium it’s a shocker.

The 24-year-old Bassitt used the underdog card to his advantage. After the race, he replicated NBA standout Steph Curry’s iconic “night, night” gesture.

No one will sleep on him again.

“I knew for me there really wasn’t that much pressure from the outside,” Bassitt said. “I knew if I got a medal people would be shocked. I knew if I didn’t get a medal it would be like, ‘OK, he really wasn’t supposed to.’ I feel like I belong in that pedigree in that group of three. I feel like today proved it.”

Dos Santos powered down the homestretch to take the title and finish in a championship-record time of 46.29 seconds. That broke Kevin Young’s world-championship record of 47.18 seconds set in 1993 in Germany.

Track

Continued from A5

She is one of 22 Ukrainian athletes in Eugene this week for the championships, all of whom have been training far from home — some in Portugal, others in Spain, still others in Poland and Mahuchikh most recently in California after stops in Serbia, Germany and Turkey.

Her teammate, Iryna Geraschenko, finished fourth — also a spectacular result given her plight after bombs started falling near her home in Kyiv. After sheltering in her parents’ basement for about a week, she left without spikes and trained for a time in tennis shoes.

“Things are a bit better, but at the same time, the war is going on,” said Geraschenko, whose jump of 2 meters (6 feet, 6¾) was a personal best. “It’s very hard to live the life before, the previous life. But I’m very happy that my parents are safe.”

Mahuchikh’s medal gives Ukraine two at the halfway point of worlds.

A night earlier, Andriy Protsenko won bronze in the men’s high jump. His victory comes months after he was trapped for nearly six weeks in his hometown of Kherson, which is near the Crimean peninsula and under Russian occupation.

“It made me realize that anything is possible,” said Ukrainian hurdler Anna Ryzhykova, who finished sec-



Gregory Bull/AP

Silver medalist Yaroslava Mahuchikh, of Ukraine, poses on the podium after the women’s high jump final at the World Athletics Championships on Tuesday in Eugene.

ond in her preliminary heat shortly before Mahuchikh took to the field. “He trained one month in an occupied city where he was risking his life. It’s amazing.”

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe was on hand. His federation was one of the first to banish Russians from these major events, a decision made, he said, because there was no fairness in allowing in athletes from an aggressor nation while those from the country under attack were living such fragile existences.

“Some of them are living at their training camps and can’t get home, some are wondering where loved ones are,” Coe said. “Their houses

No wonder Dos Santos gave two bows to the crowd.

“The energy of the crowd was amazing,” Dos Santos said. “I felt their love, people hugging me. When you win, you start being everyone’s favorite.”

Warholm said the hamstring was fine, but his training not as much.

“I’ve only been focusing on getting ready, and today I went all or nothing, and unfortunately it was nothing,” said Warholm, the Olympic champion and world-record holder. “I’ve just got to live with that.”

Maybe the biggest shocker of the night was that Wightman’s dad was able to keep it together on the call in the stadium, even with his own son about to win.

“I have to keep it neutral,” he explained. “So there’s things you can do just to stop yourself from getting emotional.”

Wightman finished in a time of 3 minutes, 29.23 seconds. His win broke a string of five straight world 1,500 titles by the Kenyans. Spain’s Mohamed Katir flew down the homestretch to take home bronze.

“To take the win, I think it will take a long time to sink in,” Wightman said. “I just wanted to show I was in good shape and to build on it.”

Other winners included Australia’s Eleanor Patterson in the women’s high jump and Kristjan Čeh of Slovenia in the men’s discus.

have been destroyed. It’s inconceivable. I don’t think any of us have that within our framework of reference.”

Mahuchikh said her mom, sister and niece are safe in Germany. Her dad and grandfather remain in Dnipro, where she said they can sometimes hear artillery firing.

There is no timeline for when she might get back to her home country to show off the silver medal.

“I wish I could come back home to our airport, to speak to our journalists, and with our relatives,” she said. “But I can’t do it now. The Russians have taken that opportunity from me.”