

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 husband and I moved into a new rental house on my best friend's property a year ago. We love living here. We moved to be closer to my friend, "Noah," who is like a brother to me. He and his wife live on the same property.

Noah was diagnosed with heart disease two years ago, and was given a year to live. He has surpassed that estimate. He now wants my husband and me to buy the house we are renting. I'm hesitant because Noah's wife suffers from a mental illness.

She has always been threatened by our close friendship, and if anything goes wrong in her life, she accuses me of sabotaging her. When she's stable, she's a nice and generous person, but recently she has been experiencing hallucinations and severe paranoia.

Noah wants us to stay because he needs our support. I'm afraid that after he's gone, she'll make our lives miserable and try to contest the ownership of the property. The property is in Noah's name only. He bought it before they got married. What should I do?

— *Torn To Pieces*

Dear Torn: Your question is of a legal nature and in no state of the union am I licensed to give legal advice. That is why you, your husband and Noah need to schedule an appointment (ASAP) to discuss this business matter with an attorney who can give you guidance to ensure your interests are protected if this transaction takes place. Because it won't

solve the issue of Noah's unstable wife, that question should be up to you and your husband to debate separately.

Dear Abby: I have been trying to develop a relationship with my half-sister, and I'm getting very mixed messages. She is mostly polite and distant. But then there are times she'll disinvite me from her child's birthday party or "unfriend" me on Facebook, etc. She explains later that she did it out of anxiety, and she seems worried about being hurt. She has an excuse every time I ask to get together.

I know she's affected by our father dying of cancer when she was young (she was 10 or 11), so I attribute her behavior to that and try not to take it personally. However, it hurts, and I'm tempted to give up. It is clear she has no interest in spending time with me. Should I stop trying to engage her? She talks warmly with our other shared relatives but not with me. I don't think I've done anything wrong, so I'm baffled.

— *Slighted In Minnesota*

Dear Slighted: Your half-sister appears to have emotional challenges in addition to her anxiety. That she would disinvite you to a family function after you had accepted the invitation was rude. It's time to take the hint and step back. Having a parent in common does not guarantee siblings will have a close relationship. My advice is to go on with your life and quit pushing for something this woman is apparently unable or unwilling to give.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: Avoid shopping or making important decisions beginning 10:45 a.m. EST and for the rest of the day (7:45 a.m. PST). The Moon is in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 2022: You have a sharp, clever mind. You are perceptive and quick. You are also charismatic, charming and appealing to many. You are optimistic and confident. Simplicity is the key to life this year. Take charge of your health. Exercise is important. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ This is a lovely day to schmooze! Because you want to travel, perhaps you're talking to travel companions or people in another country. Either way, enjoy social activities, sports events and playful times with kids. Tonight: Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ This is a feel-good day! You can cocoon at home with your favorite food and pamper yourself. Or perhaps you want a little company. If so, this is a fine day and evening to entertain at home. Discuss travel or educational plans with a friend. Tonight: Cocoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You're pumped today because Mars is still in your sign (as it will be for the rest of year). This is an excellent day to converse and interact with partners, close friends and members of the general public. You have something to say, and fortunately others are willing to listen. Tonight: An upbeat conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ This is a tricky day. You will be tempted to pursue financial negotiations or spend money or shop. However, this is a poor day to do so! (See the Moon Alert.) Get your facts or do some window-shopping, but wait until tomorrow to act. Tonight: Save your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with the Sun, which gives you a strong urge to socialize. Accept invitations to party. Enjoy lunch or happy hour with a friend. In particular, you will delight in playful activities with kids, sports events and anything to do with the entertainment world. It's a great date day! Tonight: You win!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Home, family and your personal life are your primary focus today. However, you're also in a playful, social mood! This means that this is the ideal day to entertain at home and socialize with family members. Fun times with kids will delight you. Tonight: Pleasant solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ This is a fast-paced, happy day! Because you're in a positive frame of mind, you will enjoy talking to everyone in a lighthearted way. Avoid important decisions today. Agree to nothing important. Don't volunteer for anything. Wait until tomorrow. Tonight: Talk to a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be careful today. The reason you have to be cautious is your mind will be drawn to financial matters, shopping, wheeling and dealing and money negotiations. However, this is a poor day to do any of those things! Don't shop except for food and gas. Don't agree to anything important. Forewarned is forearmed. Tonight: Show respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Today the Sun is in your sign dancing with the Moon, which makes you feel easygoing and relaxed. Enjoy socializing with others. You might want to kick around some ideas for future travel plans. You also have moneymaking ideas. Nevertheless, wait until tomorrow to act. See the Moon Alert. Be smart. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Part of you wants to be low-key and hide behind the scenes today. However, with Mercury and Venus in your sign, you're eager to talk to others. Actually, this is a lovely day to relax and enjoy yourself. Postpone shopping and important decisions until tomorrow. Restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ This is a lovely day to socialize with others, especially close friends and partners. You also might choose to be involved in a group. Nevertheless, because there is a Moon Alert all day, don't volunteer for anything. Don't shop. (Except for food and gas.) Tonight: Cooperate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ People notice you today in a favorable way. Therefore, be careful. Do not volunteer for anything or agree to new responsibilities. Wait until tomorrow to respond. Do yourself this favor. Protect yourself. Tonight: Tidy up.

TODAY
IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2022. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **Dec. 13**, 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In **1862**, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In **2001**, the Pentagon publicly released a captured videotape of Osama bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader said the deaths and destruction achieved by the September 11 attacks exceeded his "most optimistic" expectations.

In **2003**, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

In **2014**, thousands of protesters marched in New York, Washington and other U.S. cities to call attention to the killing of unarmed Black men by white police officers who faced no criminal charges.

In **2019**, the House Judiciary Committee approved two articles of impeachment accusing President Donald Trump of abuse of power in his dealings with Ukraine and obstruction of Congress in the investigation that followed.

In **2020**, the first vials of the Pfizer vaccine against COVID-19 began making their way to distribution sites across the United States.

Ten years ago: U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice withdrew from consideration to replace outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton after running into opposition from Republicans over her explanation of the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Five years ago: Congressional Republicans reached agreement on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans; middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts. The New York Times published claims by three women that they had been raped by music mogul Russell Simmons in the 1980s and 1990s; Simmons denied the allegations.

One year ago: The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection voted to pursue contempt charges against former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows; lawmakers also revealed a series of frantic texts he received as the attack was under way, in which members of Congress, Fox News anchors and even President Donald Trump's son urged Meadows to push Trump to act quickly to stop the siege by his supporters. (The House voted to hold Meadows in contempt, but the Justice Department declined to prosecute.) The Air Force said it had discharged 27 people for refusing to get the COVID-19 vaccine; they were believed to be the first service members removed for disobeying the mandate to get the shots. The Supreme Court refused to halt a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for health care workers in New York that did not offer an exemption for religious reasons.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 97. Country singer Buck White is 92. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 89. Singer John Davidson is 81. Actor Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 77. Singer Ted Nugent is 74. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 74. Actor Robert Lindsay is 73. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 73. Actor Wendie Malick is 72. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 72. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 69. Country singer John Anderson is 68. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 68. Singer-actor Morris Day is 66. Actor Steve Buscemi is 65. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 63. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 60. Actor-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 56. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 55. Actor Lusia Strus is 55. Actor Bart Johnson is 52. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 51. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 48. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 47. Actor James Kyson Lee is 47. Actor Kimee Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 43. Actor Chelsea Hertford is 41. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 41. Actor Michael Socha is 35. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 34. Singer Taylor Swift is 33. Actor Maisey Stella is 19.

Seahawks

Continued from A5

It's not really a mystery what they are, either. The Seahawks can't stop the run, and they can't run the ball, especially with their top three running backs injured. The Panthers, who came in with a 4-8 record, rushed for 223 yards, following the game plan that also fueled losses to Tampa Bay and Las Vegas.

The Seahawks, on the other hand, managed a mere 46 rushing yards. It should be no surprise which team on Sunday came across as the more physical and able to impose its will. And remember, this was supposed to be the easy portion of the Seahawks schedule, four winnable games of which the only victory was a last-second pull against a depleted Rams squad. Now the Seahawks have fallen out of their playoff spot with the division-leading 49ers looming in four days, followed by the formidable Chiefs on the road.

"Yeah, to be honest, those games you're supposed to win, you gotta win," defensive lineman Quinton Jefferson said. "Especially at home. I'm not saying they're a gimme team, but we're supposed to win this game. Come on now. Just keeping it 100, and we're making it a lot harder on ourselves. Especially in December, you're supposed to be playing your best ball, getting ready for the playoffs. That's the ultimate goal, getting into the party, and be playing good ball. We gotta get this (expletive) together, because we're supposed to be playing better, not playing regressive."

With that backdrop, every mistake is exacerbated, such as the two interceptions thrown by quarterback Geno Smith — one on the Seahawks' first offensive play of the game that set them on a desperate, scrambling path from which they never fully escaped. Smith, who has bailed the Seahawks out of so many jams this season, threw three touchdown passes (one with under a minute to play) but was under 60% completions for the first time all season. Twice in the second half the Seahawks had a possession in which they could have taken the lead after battling back from 17-0 down, but both resulted in punts.

"I have a standard, and I don't feel I played up to that standard today," Smith said.

When Smith came to the podium for his postgame interview, he was wearing a pink sweater upon which was printed the words, "Al-



Caeon Couto/AP

Carolina Panthers running back Chuba Hubbard (30) runs against Seattle Seahawks linebacker Cody Barton (57) during the first half Sunday in Seattle.

tered reality?" The Seahawks have to make sure that phrase doesn't sum up their season after their earlier surge of four consecutive victories threatened to alter the reality that this was a rebuilding season at best.

The Seahawks still have a path to the playoffs, but most of all it will require a serious and immediate solution to their porous rushing defense, which allowed the Panthers to seize back control of the game in the fourth quarter. The Seahawks thought they had done just that earlier this season, but that was before the Bucs ran roughshod over them in Germany, and then the Raiders, Rams and Panthers followed suit.

"We've got to fix it," a visibly frustrated safety Ryan Neal said. "You've seen what happened. It's been the same thing the past few weeks. Teams see it, and they're going to attack it."

Asked whether the problem was scheme or missed tackling, Neal replied, "It seems to be a combination of all of it. And that's never a good thing. Things just keep popping out of places where they shouldn't be popping out. And guys got to make the hits. Gotta get the ball carrier on the ground. When it comes to the back end of the season, it turns into, 'All right, we're just going to out-physical you, and if you're not going to stop it we're just going to keep doing that.'"

"You see it across the league with teams that keep pounding the football, guys turning stuff down, or missed fits are happening because it's late in the season. At the end of the day, we have to fix this, and we've got to bring it, and we know that, and everybody knows that. We got a team coming in here Thursday who likes to play like that, and we know that, so it's got to get fixed. Point blank, period."

Smith

Continued from A5

Can Smith top that? And what does that even look like?

In a shrinking Pac-12, can the Beavers annually contend for a Pac-12 title? In a 12-team playoff, will there one day be room for the Beavers?

OSU fans need to know just how big they should dream.

It's hard to fathom considering where the program has been, but I'm not putting anything past Smith. Oregon State ranked 14th in the final CFP ranking, and they could, if not should, have beaten No. 8 USC and No. 12 Washington.

They also could, if not should, have lost at Stanford and Fresno State.

Ascending to another level is going to require a more robust NIL structure that allows Smith to bring in even better recruits — and retain breakout stars.

There's also nothing wrong with Oregon State's reality being a long string of winning seasons.

This isn't Oregon, where the Ducks are licking their wounds over the disappointment of a 9-3 season. The Ducks' trip to the Holiday Bowl feels like a chore, a contractual obligation after dreams of a college football playoff berth, and then the Rose Bowl, were dashed.

The No. 14 Beavers? The Las Vegas Bowl is a capstone to a triumphant year that feels like a meaningful step forward.

The program can notch its first win over an SEC opponent. The Beavers are substantial favorites over the team that beat Pac-12 champion Utah in its season opener, but considering all the player defections in Gainesville, Florida, OSU is getting plenty of Gator aid.

They should win. Imagine saying that in August about a team Vegas oddsmakers placed on the bubble of making any bowl game, especially now that it is on its second starting quarterback.

Smith was deservedly named the Pac-12's co-Coach of the Year with Washington's Kalen DeBoer.

Look at what Smith and offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren pulled off with the conference's best offensive line and a host of capable running backs. Now try to picture what they could have done with a quarterback like Michael Penix Jr., the superstar transfer DeBoer lured from Indiana.

That's the next step for Smith and Oregon State, who must figure out how to become players in the transfer portal and with NIL.

J.T. Daniels' interest in Oregon State — and his, um, requests — have been well documented. He landed at West

Virginia instead and this year is back in the transfer portal. It's free agency.

Smith has done more with less than any coach in the country. He's done it the old-fashioned way, by coaching under-recruited players into Pac-12 standouts.

It's how Riley won at OSU, too. It's no coincidence that Smith is building the program similar to the way his former coach found success.

But Riley is a good reminder that even the most committed coaches can eventually look to take on new challenges.

Nobody has deeper ties to Oregon State than Smith, the 2001 Fiesta Bowl MVP. But he grew up in Southern California. USC is believed to be paying Lincoln Riley roughly \$10 million. In the NFL, head coaches make roughly \$7 million on average.

If he keeps Oregon State on the arc that has been established in his first five years, it's a safe bet that those kinds of offers will arrive.

A less committed coach might have already cashed in. The Beavers have the guy who wants to stick around.

He's already taken Oregon State back to what others might view as the program's ceiling.

If anybody can smash through that barrier, it will be Smith.

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