

Inheritance could fuel son's alcohol problem

DEAR ABBY: My 32-year-old son has an alcohol problem. He and his wife refuse to accept reality and continue to be social drinkers. My son deals with his problem by putting his head in the sand. He refuses to talk to us or answer any of our texts or calls.



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

When he does decide to join us for a holiday or other occasion, my son acts like nothing is wrong. On numerous occasions, I have helped get him the support and therapy he obviously needs, only to see him throw away 30-plus days of sobriety so they could go to a friend's wedding or something similar. I'm done.

I have a will leaving everything to my two children 50-50, and I'm now questioning that decision. My daughter is a hardworking wife and mother; my son hasn't worked in more than a year. His wife supports them. I don't want to create a rift between my daughter and son in case he ever does decide to smarten up. But I also don't want to throw my hard-earned

assets away or, worse, provide a means for him to drink himself to death.

I have tried going to Al-Anon for advice and didn't find it useful. How can a parent make this type of decision? -- **WRESTLING WITH IT IN COLORADO**

DEAR WRESTLING: You are not alone in having this dilemma. A sizable number of the parents of addicts share it. Because your son doesn't have the ability to abstain if he is someplace where liquor is served, the person to talk with is the attorney who helped you write your estate plan. Whether this means

cutting him out of your will completely or establishing some kind of trust for him, I can't guess. But an attorney who specializes in wills and trusts can point you in the right direction.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 76-year-old divorcee with two adult children. There's this 60-year-old man with three grown children who is in the process of getting a divorce. He was my contractor four years ago, and we had a friendly relationship that deepened last year.

This man has been trying to get a divorce for eight years and now hopes to finalize it later this year. He knows

I wasn't going to get involved until he was divorced and understood my position. He has never lied to me and has always let me know what's happening with the divorce.

My friends think I'm too old and he's too young for us to be involved. The age difference doesn't bother me. We get along well, and the difference doesn't make either of us uncomfortable. How can I get my friends to not be concerned and let me be? -- **CALIFORNIA COUGAR**

DEAR COUGAR: Your friends mean well. They are trying to protect you from what

they perceive may be a threat. However, because the age difference doesn't bother either of you, quit allowing their concerns to affect you. Continue to enjoy each other, and don't be surprised if your boyfriend isn't eager to immediately remarry. Live your life. You don't have to prove anything to anyone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

GBL

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stories about Kansas high school sports and athletics. For the past 16 years, Kpreps has partnered with the Get Busy Livin' Foundation to honor its Kansas Football Player of the Year. This award not only acknowledges the athlete's accomplishments on the gridiron, but also recognizes leadership and volunteerism in the community.

Since its inception, the GBL Foundation has recognized high school seniors, athletes and youth volunteer groups for their hard work. This year, from 82 scholarship applications, the foundation selected 14 students from Crawford County high schools to receive their scholarship award. They are:

- Pittsburg High School: Kaydence Burns, Lauren Crawford, Faith Kimsey, Parker Pinamonti and Adessah Reed.
- Frontenac High School: Abigail Albright and Avery Hipfl.
- St. Mary's Colgan High School: Carston Simmons, Maleia Sukraw and Hayden Turnbull.
- Girard High School:



Madison Coester, Caleb Humble and Seth Wilson.

Southeast High School: Michael Smith.

Two football players have been selected for the GBL Foundation athletic scholarship awards.

Cole Hayden will receive the PHS Football Purple Dragons Inspirational Player of the Year Award. Team captain, starting tight end and defensive end, Hayden has also been a GBL club lead. He has signed to play baseball next season at Ft. Scott Community College.

All-state tight end Ian Premer from Great Bend High School has been selected Kpreps GBL Player of the Year. A three-sport all-state athlete, Premer has been rated the #1 tight end in the nation. He has signed with the University of Notre Dame to continue his football career in the fall.

One of the primary goals of the GBL Foundation is to continued

support for youth volunteerism. This year, several youth programs have been selected to receive support grants. Hundreds of volunteers and workers will participate in the following activities:

- * Special Olympics track and field event at Pitt State.

- * GBL Club (USD 250) supporting numerous causes at PHS and in the community.

- * Dream Big Little One Assoc. - working with Columbus HS students provided custom-sown pillow cases and dream pillows for children in need.

- * Fostering Connections (Pittsburg) - Foster Parent Retreat Event for foster and adoptive families.

- * Ronald McDonald House Charities (Joplin) - Pop Tab Palooza #2 with local high school students working with other volunteers at the facility.

- * Parsons Recreation Commission - Poolside Landscaping Initiative where students will help participate in a community outdoor beautification project.

- * SEK Recycling Center's Instill Respect for the Earth We Share Program - students will work the "tunnel" learning how and why

we need to sort the various recycled materials.

- * Ft. Scott Community College's Ft. Lincoln School House Spruce Up Project - area youth will assist with scraping, sanding, and painting this historical structure.

- * Miner's Hall Museum Foundation - work day for students and adults to improve the playground facility at the Franklin Community Center.

- * Safe Families for Children's Frozen Meals for Families - grade school children will help prepare and deliver meals to families in need.

This year, to celebrate the City of Pittsburg's 150th Year Anniversary, the GBL has partnered with the City's Park & Recreation Dept. to furnish and install 9 informational pedestals in Wilderness Park to enhance the walking trail experience.

Each year, the GBL Foundation selects a slogan that it believes Dylan would suggest or enjoy. This year's slogan is "150 Years of Heart & Hustle."

The Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas is the host agency for the Dylan Meier Get Busy Livin' Foundation Fund.

SOKS

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and they are doing everything from run walks to turbo javelin to softball throw and all kinds of things," said Special Olympics Kansas Senior Director of Development Erin Fletcher. "... This is the favorite. A lot of people, yes, they love bowling and yes, they love bocce, but this is the one they look forward to every year. This is the big one

"... It's so inspiring to see them try so hard and do so well. Everything from that to just even seeing our volunteers that maybe for the first time ever feel like they are really getting ownership in what they are doing. We have Pitt State (volunteering), we have a lot of area high schools as well."

Those competing included Mosaic, CLASS LTD, Oak Cottage, Haven, MoKan, and New Hope. When it comes to track season, New Hope athlete Lincoln Laverack noted that he "freaking loves it."

"I love shot put," he said. "I've got big muscles so I can throw them far ... It's very

important (to have fun) because you get to spend it with your friends and we love them dearly."

The annual track meet continues Wednesday with the popular Law Enforcement Torch Run along with the second part of the track meet, featuring youth athletes and volunteers from high schools across the southeast Kansas region.

Other representing regions, such as South Central and KC Metro, are scheduled to hold their track competitions in the next two weeks and then have a minor break before competing in the 2026 Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games. Taking place at Maize South High School June 5-7, that competition features state bocce, tennis, soccer, and track and field events.

For more information or to volunteer, visit soks.org or call 913-236-9290.

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KELLY

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county officials to develop a strategy to reduce the property tax burden on their constituents."

The bill was approved by the House on a vote of 87-35. The Senate pushed it through on a 27-13 vote. If those totals were to hold, and the Legislature were in session, the bill would have had enough support to override the governor.

Despite making property tax relief among the Legislature's top priorities in 2026, GOP leadership in the House and Senate fought throughout the session on how to accomplish

the goal. There was bipartisan concern that rash changes by the Legislature could make it financially difficult for local units of government to operate. Property taxes are primarily levied at the local level, with the exception of 20 mills set aside to fund the state's public school system.

House Speaker Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican campaigning for state insurance commissioner, sought approval of bills, including HB 2043, to get at the property tax riddle by limiting local government spending.

He alleged, without evidence, the governor had no intention of signing

a bill granting property tax relief and asserted she vetoed it "for purely political reasons."

"The high cost of property taxes in Kansas has reached crisis level and HB 2043 simply gave taxpayers a voice," Hawkins said. "If local governments want to raise taxes beyond what families can keep up with, Kansas should have the right to say, 'No.'"

Earlier in the day, Hawkins begged the governor to give the bill careful consideration. The House speaker asked Kelly to "put politics aside and put the people of Kansas first."

Meanwhile, Senate President Ty Masterson, a Republican from

Andover competing for the GOP nomination for governor, maintained the best method of dealing with the property tax question was to amend the Kansas Constitution to set a 3% cap on annual increases in assessed valuation of property. There were bipartisan objections to the constitutional amendment concept because lawmakers concluded cities and counties would secure revenue from other tax sources rather than lower the property tax burden.

Masterson was disappointed about the House's refusal to accept the Senate's preference for the constitutional amendment option.



Gov. Laura Kelly says the Kansas Legislature needs to work collaboratively, rather than confrontationally, with cities and counties to devise a method of moderating property tax increases across Kansas. (PHOTO BY SHERMAN SMITH/KANSAS REFLECTOR)

The Senate president expressed contempt for the House-favored alternative vetoed by Kelly, saying it was merely "better than nothing."

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