

First international business trip raises culture questions

DEAR ABBY: I'm worried for my son. He's going on his first business trip in January — to Japan. He doesn't drink alcohol. (He's not an alcoholic; it's his personal choice.) His bosses, who do business there frequently, are now telling him that the Japanese will not do business with you unless you drink with them first. Can you find out if this is true? And if it is, what can, or should, my son do?

— WORRIED MOM

DEAR WORRIED: Although alcohol can be a part of an important bonding ritual across East Asia, your son may be able to forge successful business relationships in other ways. According to Erin Meyer, a professor at the international graduate business school INSEAD and author of “The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business”: “If you don't drink, you can certainly find other ways to partake in the fun; in Japan, a round of karaoke or a trip to the spa can do wonders.” Because your son is involved in international business, he may find professor Meyer's book, which was published in 2014, will give him valuable insight.

DEAR ABBY: I have some concerns about my marriage. My husband is a retired U.S. veteran. He was married before we got together, and his former spouse receives his survivor benefits. This was something that was decided during their divorce. I am not entitled to anything. I have been a loving wife and have taken care of him for the 14 years we have been married. He has one daughter who is 40-plus years old. I just found out that I am not his beneficiary on anything — she is! This has me very worried. Please let me know what I need to do about this situation.

— LOVING WIFE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LOVING WIFE: What you need to do is discuss this with your husband to see if he will modify his will, which may have been drafted before he married you. Then the two of you should talk to an attorney, preferably one who specializes in wills and trusts. If your husband is not willing to make an adjustment, then consult an attorney on your own because, as it stands, your husband's

estate plan is not fair to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a large family. As the grandchildren are now adults with significant others, it's getting beyond my financial means to buy a Christmas gift for everyone — something I have always done. I now have a brand-new great-grandchild. What do other grandparents do at holidays about gifts?

— AT MY LIMIT IN NEW YORK

DEAR LIMIT: Some grandparents set an age limit after which gifts cease. Some families have a “pool” from which names are drawn so each family member buys only one gift per family. And other grandparents tell their children and adult grandchildren the truth — explaining that because they can no longer afford to buy gifts, from now on they'll be exchanging Christmas card greetings only.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and enjoy going out for a nice dinner occasionally. We go to chain restaurants, hotel restaurants and local dinner establishments. We order lighter meals than we used to, and with the cost of dinners these days we have been finishing our entire meal. Our problem is that again and again, our server makes a comment about our finished plates. It might be, “You were really hungry, I see!” or, “Wow! You really enjoyed that!” It is uncomfortable to hear these comments about our eating habits and it spoils our enjoyment. This may be an attempt on their part to be friendly, but we don't like it. How do we let them know this is crossing the boundaries of professional behavior?

— EMBARRASSED IN VIRGINIA.

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I hope you realize that for many people this would not be a problem. You needn't be confrontational — all you need to calmly say is, “When you say that, it makes me uncomfortable, so please don't do it again.” No servers want to offend a guest, and they are not mind readers. However, they are all aware that their tips depend on how their service is regarded by customers — so I'm sure your comment will be taken to heart.

A tough hurricane recovery job: Making kids feel safe again

By Kelli Kennedy
Associated Press

When Tiffany Harris and her two children emerged from their hotel after Hurricane Michael roared past, her 3-year-old son pointed to a sea of fallen trees and shattered buildings. “It's broken. It's broken, Mommy, fix it,” she recalls her little boy Amari begging. Harris, who lives with her boyfriend, two children, plus her sister and her four children near Panama City, soon learned their town house was uninhabitable. Everything was a total loss after Michael powered inland across the Florida Panhandle as a Category 4 monster on Oct. 10.

“All their toys are just gone. Even shoes and clothes,” Harris said, tears welling in her eyes. “All we have is what's left in our car.” The two families, with six children between them, were forced because of mold to leave the hotel where they went for a time. They ended up about four hours away in Gainesville, north Florida. Finding food and shelter each night was a struggle. Often they had to sleep in their car.

Hurricanes and the daily challenges that come with surviving what follows can be especially troubling for children, who may be too young to understand what's happening around them. It's been especially hard on Harris' two toddlers. Sometimes the toddlers refuse to eat. Getting them to use the bathroom has again become a struggle.

The children are irritable, constantly asking why they can't go home. And Harris' normally happy 2-year-old daughter, Ayla, cries all the time.

“It's the worst feeling as a mother. To not be able to help or do anything or change anything,” said the 25-year-old mother. “I can't fix it.”

After Michael's rampage, some children in the Panhandle hurricane zone had to wait weeks for schools to reopen. Others had to remain for a time in temporary living quarters. And experts say children are undergoing severe stress as they watch their parents attempt to rebuild their lives.

“That loss of safety, loss of innocence and that loss of routine and the ability to really enjoy play. You particularly see that in children in shelters,” said Sarah Thompson, director of U.S. emergencies for Save the Children.

The organization hosted therapeutic play areas in three shelters impacted by Michael. Those programs are staffed by experts who work on “listening to them and saying, ‘it's OK to feel angry and it's OK to be fearful in this situation,’” said Thompson.

After a traumatic event, experts note, some children become hyperactive, while others withdraw and become quiet. For some, the stress affects sleeping, eating and bathroom patterns.

“What we saw after (Hurricane) Katrina, and it might happen here, is that many

families say they're going to relocate because they lost their homes. That adds additional challenges and stress to children who have to go to a new place, make new friends and are surrounded by strangers,” Thompson added.

Children will look for cues from parents as to how to cope. “If they see parents kind of falling apart at the seams, that's going to create anxiety for the children,” said David Murphey, a research scientist at Child Trends, a national non-profit seeking to bolster children's outcomes.

When a massive tree fell on the home of Lilly Langworthy during Michael, her family lost power for eight days. At first, her boys ages 3, 6, and 7 didn't want to be apart from their parents. Then all three started sleeping in the same room. Sometimes they'd awake with nightmares.

“They hear winds and they immediately ask if the trees are going to knock over,” said Langworthy, of Chipley.

The 33-year-old mother has been proactive in talking about the storm, constantly reassuring her children they are safe and loved. The family prayed during the hurricane and Langworthy said she often hears the boys praying on their own now. “I told the boys, ‘It's OK to be sad when you see something that bothers you and it's OK to get angry too.’ I want them to know those are healthy emotions,” she said.

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weather

TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
A touch of rain late	A bit of afternoon snow	Mostly cloudy	A little afternoon snow	Showers of rain and snow
Baker City 32 Comfort Index™ 2	43 28 0	44 28 3	43 29 2	42 24 1
La Grande 38 Comfort Index™ 1	44 35 0	46 33 3	44 34 2	42 32 0
Enterprise 37 Comfort Index™ 3	45 33 2	44 30 4	43 31 3	39 28 1

Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

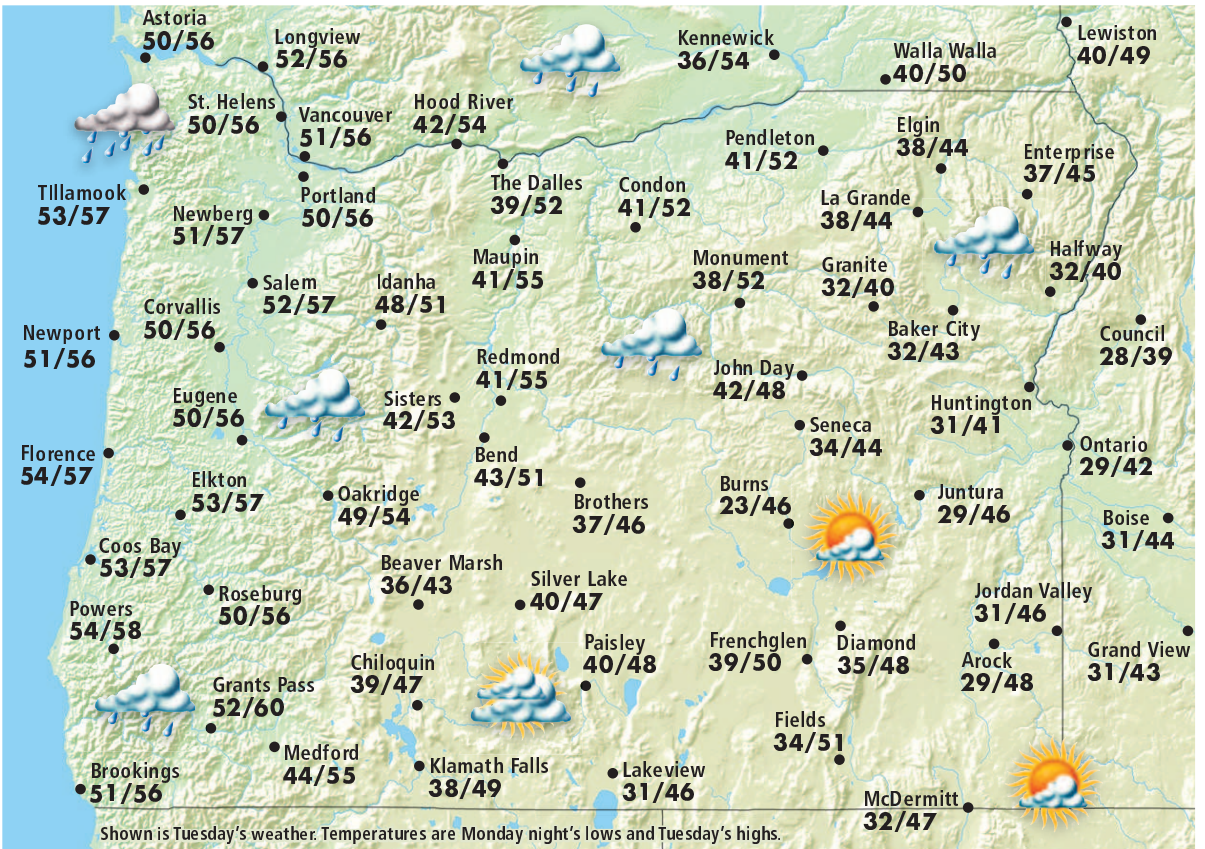
ALMANAC	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
TEMPERATURES			
High Sunday	44°	41°	43°
Low Sunday	17°	25°	24°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.65	1.59
Normal month to date	0.74	1.69	2.56
Year to date	5.24	13.57	24.76
Normal year to date	8.99	14.52	20.11

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	60%
Afternoon wind	S at 10 to 20 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.5
Evapotranspiration	0.06
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)	
Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	16% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	33% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	11% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	12% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	22% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	788 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	7 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	63 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	20 cfs

SUNDAY EXTREMES	
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 87°	Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -9°	Stanley, Idaho
Wettest: 3.79"	Panama City, Fla.
OREGON	
High: 57°	Brookings
Low: 11°	Burns
Wettest: 0.06"	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY	
On Nov. 27, 1898, the famous "Portland" storm formed off Cape Cod, causing the loss of 200 lives. Many others were lost to the raging sea in 50 small vessels. Boston received more than a foot of snow.	
SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	7:05 a.m.
Sunset	4:14 p.m.
Moonrise	7:56 p.m.
Moonset	10:33 a.m.
MOON PHASES	
Last	New
First	Full
Nov 29	Dec 6
Dec 15	Dec 22

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY									
	TUE.	WED.		TUE.	WED.								
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		ANTHONY LAKES			PHILLIPS LAKE			
Astoria	56/45/r	53/40/r	Lewiston	49/40/r	49/33/c	Cloudy				Cloudy			
Bend	51/34/r	47/31/c	Longview	56/47/r	52/43/r		33	26		40	30		
Boise	44/32/r	48/33/c	Meacham	42/34/sn	44/31/c								
Brookings	56/48/r	56/47/r	Medford	55/39/r	54/40/r		MT. EMILY REC.			BROWNLEE RES.			
Burns	46/22/r	44/21/c	Newport	56/46/r	54/43/r	Cloudy				Cloudy			
Coos Bay	57/48/r	55/46/r	Olympia	55/41/r	50/36/r		39	35		46	35		
Corvallis	56/44/r	53/40/r	Ontario	42/31/r	47/30/c								
Council	39/34/sn	41/31/c	Pasco	50/40/sh	51/32/c		EAGLE CAP WILD.			EMIGRANT ST. PARK			
Elgin	44/35/c	46/31/c	Pendleton	52/42/r	52/35/c	Cloudy				Cloudy			
Eugene	56/44/r	52/41/r	Portl and	56/46/r	52/43/r		32	25		42	34		
Hermiston	54/41/sh	54/35/c	Powers	58/48/r	56/45/r								
Hood River	54/43/r	51/39/r	Redmond	55/33/r	49/26/sn		WALLOWA LAKE			MCKAY RESERVOIR			
Imnaha	48/38/r	49/33/c	Roseburg	56/45/r	54/44/r	Cloudy				Cloudy			
John Day	48/36/r	47/35/c	Salem	57/46/r	54/42/r		44	36		49	42		
Joseph	44/33/sn	43/30/c	Spokane	44/37/sh	44/33/c								
Kennewick	54/43/sh	55/36/c	The Dalles	52/39/sh	49/35/c		THIEF VALLEY RES.			RED BRIDGE ST. PARK			
Klamath Falls	49/30/r	46/31/c	Ukiah	46/34/sn	45/30/c	Cloudy				Cloudy			
Lakeview	46/29/r	44/27/sn	Walla Walla	50/42/sh	50/34/c		43	32		44	38		
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice													

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