

Colleague refuses payment for help above and beyond

DEAR ABBY: My colleagues and I were recently notified that our company is closing next month. My work partner and I have collaborated closely for four years, and he's an expert at the software I need to know to get a job in my field. When I asked if he would give me a couple of lessons via Zoom, I was thinking it'd be about a three-hour commitment for him. But he was enthusiastic and designed a 20-plus-hour curriculum for me. He keeps saying he doesn't want me to pay him, but I want to find an appropriate way to express my gratitude. What would be an appropriate amount to compensate him without getting too steep (which is why I didn't do the full-price software training in the first place. It was \$2K)? Thanks for any advice.

— THANKFUL IN ILLINOIS

DEAR THANKFUL: If you know of any interests, hobbies, a sport, etc. your partner has outside the workplace, con-

sider going online to see if you can find something connected to that activity he would enjoy that's within your budget.

DEAR ABBY: Every year on Facebook's "National Daughter's Day," my daughter's mother-in-law professes her love, respect and admiration for her own daughter, but never acknowledges her daughter-in-law (my daughter). Yet on "National Son's Day," she posts glowing tributes not only to her sons, but also to her son-in-law.

We all live within miles of each other, and this recurring slight makes it difficult to act like everything is fine when, in truth, this is hurtful to my daughter and to our family. Should I address this issue with the mother-in-law or continue to bite my tongue?

— DISMISSED IN TEXAS

DEAR DISMISSED: If you are smart, rather than address the issue with your daughter's mother-in-law, who either has the emotional intelligence of an

oyster or really doesn't care for your daughter, mention it to your son-in-law and point out to him that being slighted is hurtful. There may be a better result if HE brings it up to his mother.

DEAR ABBY: I battle with a double chin, and I loathe it. My chin hides itself only if I am under 126 pounds. Anything over that and it's there. I'm not overweight, but my double chin makes me feel that way.

I have read that dermal fillers in the chin can discreetly get rid of this issue.

The problem? My husband. He's against any type of plastic surgery. He doesn't like my double chin either, but he wants me to only get rid of it "naturally." Normally I would agree. I have been exercising (running four times a week) without success. I don't feel comfortable looking this way.

I think I deserve this shortcut. Should I get the filler without my husband's blessing, or should I continue this struggle?

— TAKING IT ON THE CHIN

DEAR TAKING IT: You are an adult, and it's your body. You do not need permission to do something that will help you feel better about yourself.

If your husband is against any type of plastic surgery (and by the way, fillers do not qualify as plastic surgery), HE should forgo having it when his frown lines begin to look like tractor furrows and he develops a wrinkle.

DEAR ABBY: My college-aged granddaughter is no longer speaking to me, answering my phone calls or allowing her other grandmother (who raised her) to post anything on Facebook where I can see what she is doing.

My granddaughter came to live with me last summer because she worked a summer job here. I asked her if she was gay, not because I think she is but as a prelude to a conversation about not allowing other girls to recruit her into a same-sex relationship as I saw in college and while teaching public school.

Although I tried to explain,

things have grown progressively worse.

My son and her mother married when she was 7 and divorced when she was 13.

Over the years, I worked hard to develop and maintain a relationship with her.

Now, she has told the other grandmother that she will never speak to me again. Was what I did so bad, and what should I do now?

— OTHER GRANDMOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR OTHER: What you said wasn't "bad," but it was misinformed and heavy-handed. While same-sex relationships do happen in high school and college, young people don't usually indulge unless they are already at least bi-curious. Even then, straight people don't suddenly "turn gay."

Your granddaughter may still be trying to figure out her sexual orientation, which could be why she has reacted so strongly. If you are wise, you will allow her the time she needs to sort it out, rather than push or panic.

Beetle keeps rivals off scent of food buried for offspring

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Some beetles go to great — and disgusting — lengths for their children.

They scout for a dead mouse or bird, dig a hole and bury it, pluck its fur or feathers, roll its flesh into a ball and cover it in goop — all to feed their future offspring.

Now scientists think that goo might do more than just slow decay. It also appears to hide the scent of the decomposing bounty and boosts another odor that repels competitors.

"It helps them to hide their resource from others," said Stephen Trumbo, who studies animal behavior at the University of Connecticut and led the new research, published Jan. 14 in The American Naturalist. "They try to keep everyone away."

The beetles — called burying beetles — aren't the only creatures who try to deceive their competitors or prey with subtle, sneaky tactics. Large blue butterflies, for example, will imitate certain sounds to manipulate ants. Corpse flowers produce rotting odors to attract insect pollinators that feed on



Vanessa R. Lane via AP

This November 2020 photo shows a Nicrophorus orbicollis beetle in Georgia. Burying beetles scout for a dead mouse or bird, dig a hole and bury it, pluck its fur or feathers, roll its flesh into a ball and cover it in goop — all to feed their future offspring. Now scientists think that goo appears to hide the scent of the decomposing bounty and boosts another odor that repels competitors.

decomposing matter.

The importance of these interactions are being recognized more and more, said Alexandre Figueiredo, a biologist at University of Zurich, who was not involved in the new study.

Burying beetles and other things that feed on dead animals — including vultures, opossums and maggots — race each other to track down carcasses.

Competition is stiff even among burying beetles, which use special antennae to detect the remains from afar.

Burying beetles are relatively large, about an inch long, and black with orange markings. The gut secretions they spread on a carcass are antibacterial, and slow down decomposition. Trumbo and his colleagues wondered whether they

also prevented rivals from picking up the scent.

To find out, they collected the gases wafting off dead hairless mice preserved by a kind of burying beetle that is found in forests across North America. The researchers then compared the gases to those from untouched carcasses.

The beetle-prepped ones gave off much less of an onion-smelling com-

pound that usually attracts burying beetles to fresh remains. They also discovered an increase in another gas from decay that's known to deter other insects that feed on dead animals.

Next, they dropped off the dead mice in a Connecticut forest. They found the beetle's rivals were less likely to discover the ones covered in goop.

"If you can deter other scavengers, even for a little bit of time, it can buy you a lot," said Daniel Rozen, a biologist at Leiden University in the Netherlands who was not involved in the new study.

Police: Thief berated mom for leaving kid in car he stole

BEAVERTON — A car thief who found a toddler in the backseat of a stolen vehicle drove back and chastised the mother for leaving the child unattended before taking off again, police in Oregon said.

The woman went into a grocery store about 15 feet from the car Saturday, Jan. 16, leaving her 4-year-old child inside with the engine running and the vehicle unlocked, said Beaverton police spokesperson officer Matt Henderson.

A store employee told authorities the woman was in the market for a few minutes before someone began driving away with the SUV.

Once the thief realized the toddler was in the backseat, he drove back, berated the woman for leaving her child unattended, told the woman to take the child and drove away in the stolen vehicle.

"He actually lectured the mother for leaving the child in the car and threatened to call the police on her," Henderson said.

Henderson said the woman did nothing wrong and was within sight and sound of the child. He said the incident served as a "good reminder to take extra precaution" with children.

"Obviously, we're thankful he brought the little one back and had the decency to do that," Henderson said.

The vehicle was found a few hours later in Portland, but police still are searching for the thief. The suspect was said to be in his 20s or 30s with dark brown or black braided hair and a multi-colored face mask.

Police said anyone with information on the theft should contact the department.

— Associated Press

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	A snow squall; cloudy	Areas of low clouds	Mostly sunny and chilly	Cloudy with a bit of snow	Cloudy
Baker City	26	39 22	40 18	34 23	37 21
Comfort Index™	1	2	3	0	1
La Grande	29	37 25	37 23	35 26	36 24
Comfort Index™	0	1	3	0	3
Enterprise	29	36 25	35 23	35 27	36 25
Comfort Index™	1	1	3	2	3

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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Tuesday	41°	41°	39°
Low Tuesday	17°	15°	18°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.31	0.95	4.07
Normal month to date	0.53	1.08	2.05
Year to date	0.31	0.95	4.07
Normal year to date	0.53	1.08	2.05

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	60%
Afternoon wind	NNW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.1
Evapotranspiration	0.02

RESERVOIR STORAGE

(through midnight Wednesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	42% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	48% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	40% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	32% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	84% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS

(through midnight Tuesday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	1930 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	9 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	251 cfs
Minam River at Minam	154 cfs
Powder River near Richland	43 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 81°	Brownsville, Texas
Low: -15°	West Yellowstone, Mont.
Wettest: 1.02"	Gilmer, Texas

OREGON

High: 62°	Brookings
Low: 9°	Rome
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1994, Jan. 21 set a new record low of 21 below zero in Scranton, Pa. The next year, however, temperatures remained continuously above freezing for 10 days and nights, a new January record.

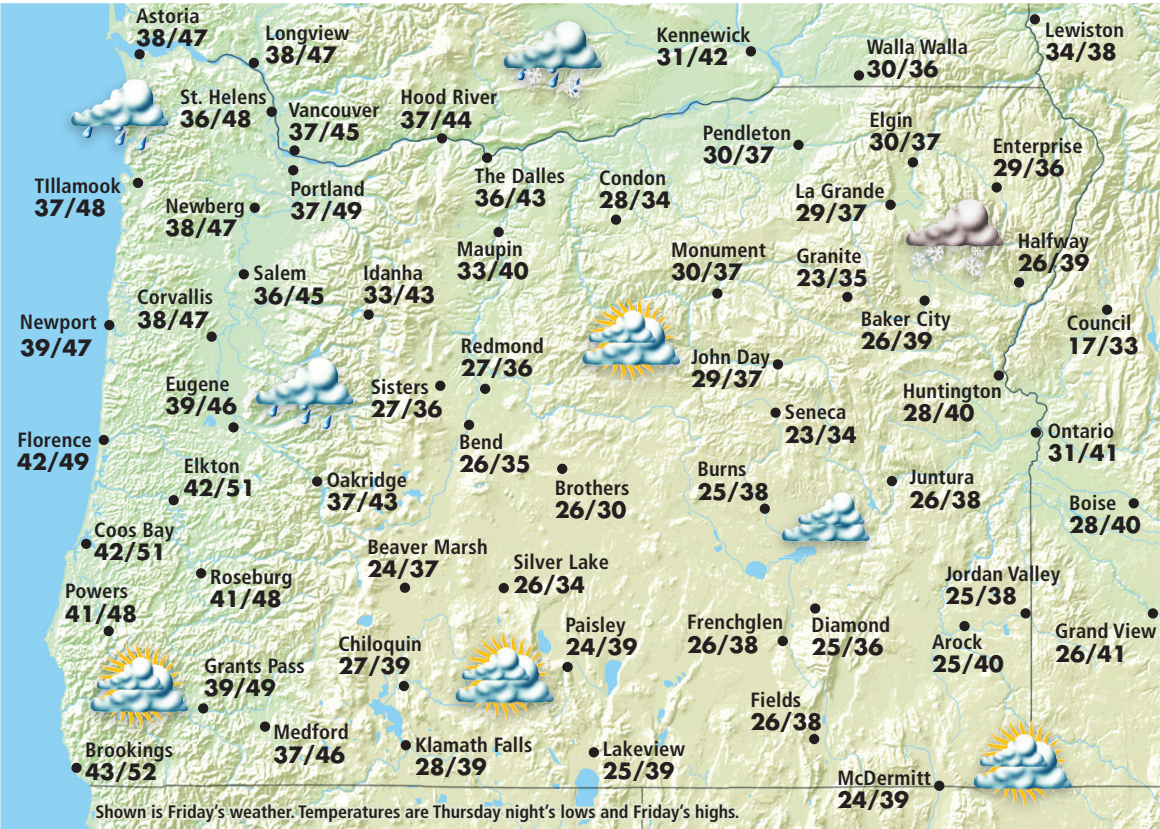
SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:24 a.m.	7:23 a.m.
Sunset	4:44 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
Moonrise	11:38 a.m.	12:02 p.m.
Moonset	12:54 a.m.	1:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 19

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



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REGIONAL CITIES

	FRI.	SAT.		FRI.	SAT.
City	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	City	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Astoria	47/31/pc	47/39/pc	Lewiston	38/30/sn	38/24/pc
Bend	35/20/pc	40/24/s	Longview	47/33/s	47/37/pc
Boise	40/25/sf	38/23/pc	Meacham	34/21/c	33/20/s
Brookings	52/40/c	54/38/c	Medford	46/34/pc	47/30/s
Burns	38/19/sn	37/14/s	Newport	47/35/pc	46/38/pc
Coos Bay	51/37/c	50/39/s	Olympia	45/28/pc	44/34/pc
Corvallis	47/31/pc	46/33/pc	Ontario	41/29/sn	42/21/s
Council	33/18/c	29/10/s	Pasco	42/23/pc	39/26/s
Elgin	37/26/c	37/25/s	Pendleton	37/26/sn	39/26/s
Eugene	46/34/c	37/25/s	Portland	49/33/pc	46/38/pc
Hermiston	41/24/pc	43/26/s	Powers	48/37/pc	49/36/s
Hood River	44/31/s	46/35/pc	Redmond	36/22/c	41/20/s
Imnaha	39/27/sn	37/20/c	Roseburg	48/37/c	47/35/c
John Day	37/22/c	35/18/s	Salem	45/30/pc	44/35/pc
Joseph	36/24/sf	34/19/pc	Spokane	35/19/s	31/24/pc
Kennecook	42/23/pc	41/26/s	The Dalles	43/28/s	46/32/s
Klamath Falls	39/23/pc	40/21/s	Ukiah	32/20/pc	32/21/s
Lakeview	39/21/c	36/14/s	Walla Walla	36/25/sn	36/26/s

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny
30 13	35 19
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Partly sunny	A snow shower
34 23	33 18
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
A bit of p.m. snow	Partly sunny
30 12	32 19
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
A few flurries	A snow squall
36 24	36 26
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Periods of sun	Partly sunny
39 22	37 25