

Surprise revelation of twins' paternity is a family bombshell

DEAR ABBY: My son's new wife — who has a daughter — insisted that his two children are not biologically his. After a DNA test, it turns out she was right. They aren't. My son, my husband and I are heartbroken. His twins are 10, and they don't understand what's going on.



DEAR ABBY

My husband and I are trying to gently remain in their lives with phone calls and limited visits. My son's wife refuses to visit with us until we stop communicating with the children, promise never to talk about them and display no pictures in our home.

She's trying to convince our son to stop seeing us, as well.

What to do?
— **DISAPPOINTED IN TEXAS**
DEAR DISAPPOINTED: Those children, regardless of who their birth father is, were raised believing you and your husband are their grandparents. If you love them, do not knuckle under to your son's new wife or it will be only the beginning of how she will attempt to control you.

She does not have the right to dictate who you (or your son, for that matter) see and communicate with. She also does not have the right to order you to remove any object from your home.

If your son opts to turn his back on those children, that's a

decision only he can make. If he also chooses to turn his back on you, then you raised a milquetoast instead of a man.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a married man, and I love my wife. We're not living together at the moment due to unfortunate circumstances.

Being far away from her, I get extremely lonely. I have a co-worker who became a good friend, and I have feelings for her. I have told her how I feel, and we have hung out a few times — nothing sexual. Now she's moving away, and I feel heartbroken. How should I deal? I'm fighting back tears for someone I'm not even with. What do I do?

— **HEARTBROKEN**
DEAR HEARTBROKEN: A relationship does not have to be

sexual to be meaningful, and your co-worker was filling a space in your life that was empty. That you feel a sense of loss and sadness that she is moving is not surprising.

Not knowing the unfortunate circumstances that caused the separation between you and your wife, I can only advise you to start looking for a way to mend fences or change those circumstances so you can live together again, because clearly, you're not doing well on your own.

If that's not possible, start giving serious thought to how you plan to live the rest of your life, because this way isn't working.

DEAR ABBY: The other day I was on a video conference call

with our boss and two colleagues. When "Joan" came on the call, "something" was hanging from one of her nostrils. She may have had a cold. I scratched my nose and mustache a few times, trying to alert her of what was happening, to no avail. She didn't react. No one else said anything.

What would the correct protocol have been? Should I have left it alone or was I right to try to let her know? I did what I would have done in person. Should I have privately texted her? Please advise.

— **TELECOMMUTING WOES**

DEAR TELECOMMUTING: If the person with the leaky nose had been you, wouldn't you have wanted to know? Yes, you should have texted her.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Ancient shell horn can still play a tune after 18,000 years

WASHINGTON — A large conch shell overlooked in a museum for decades is now thought to be the oldest known seashell instrument — and it still works, producing a deep, plaintive bleat, like a foghorn from the distant past.

The shell was found during the 1931 excavation of a cave with prehistoric wall paintings in the French Pyrenees and assumed to be a ceremonial drinking cup. Archaeologists from the University of Toulouse recently took a fresh look and determined it had been modified thousands of years ago to serve as a wind instrument. They invited a French horn player to play it.

"Hearing it for the first time, for me it was a big emotion — and a big stress," said archaeologist Carole Fritz.

She feared that playing the 12-inch shell might damage it, but it didn't. The horn produced clear C, C sharp and D notes. The researchers say it is around 18,000 years old. Their findings were published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.



Carole Fritz via AP

This combination of photos in February 2021 shows two sides of a 12-inch conch shell discovered in a French cave with prehistoric wall paintings in 1931. Using modern microscopy techniques to examine how the shell was modified and hiring a French horn player to test it out, researchers found the shell could produce C, C sharp and D notes. Using carbon dating of related artifacts in the cave, researchers estimate the age to be around 18,000 years, making it the world's oldest seashell instrument known.

Conch shells have been used widely in musical and ceremonial traditions, including in ancient Greece, Japan, India and Peru. The shell instrument found in the Marsoulas cave is now the oldest known example. Previously, a conch shell instrument found in

unusual holes in the shell. The tip of the shell was broken off, creating a hole large enough to blow through. Microscopic inspection revealed the opening was the result of deliberate craftsmanship, not accidental wear, according to Tosello.

By inserting a tiny medical camera, they found that another hole had been carefully drilled in the shell's inner chamber. They also detected traces of red pigment on the mouth of the conch, matching a pattern found on the wall of Marsoulas cave.

"This is classic, really solid archaeology," said Margaret Conkey, an archaeologist at the University of California, Berkeley, who was not involved in the research. "This discovery reminds us that their lives were much richer and more complex than just stone tools and big game."

Marsoulas cave is not located near an ocean, so the prehistoric people must have either moved around widely or used trading networks to obtain the shell, Conkey and the researchers said.

Using a 3D replica, the archaeologists plan to continue studying the horn's range of notes. They hope to hear the shell played in the cave where it was found.

Norway deports truck driver for not using snow chains

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Norwegian authorities deported a truck driver who was stopped by police twice within an hour for driving without mandatory snow chains near a city north of the Arctic Circle.

The man, who has been banned from returning to Norway for two years, was "careless of the conditions, which represents a great danger," police spokesman Per Oeyvind Skogmo said in a statement Thursday, Feb. 11.

Police said officers first stopped the driver as he headed to downtown Tromsø and ordered him to put chains on his tires. A little while later, officers pulled him over again on a nearby bridge.

In Norway, heavy vehicles are required to use snow chains from mid-November until the end of March regardless of the road conditions in the Scandinavian country. Skogmo said that because the man's truck did not have chains, "we found grounds to open a deportation case against the foreign driver."

— *The Associated Press*

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weather

TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Cloudy	A few morning flurries	Chilly with snow, 2-4"	A snow squall in the p.m.	Clouds and sun; chilly
Baker City 27 Comfort Index™ 0	38 16	33 28	41 27	42 28
La Grande 30 Comfort Index™ 0	37 13	35 30	42 28	40 27
Enterprise 26 Comfort Index™ 0	33 7	36 28	40 23	38 28

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 Sunday	30°	32°	32°
Low Sunday	5°	8°	16°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.02	0.33	0.12
Month to date	0.14	1.12	1.30
Normal month to date	0.29	0.55	1.19
Year to date	0.51	2.16	5.61
Normal year to date	1.09	2.18	4.36

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY

Lowest relative humidity	55%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.4
Evapotranspiration	0.04

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	49% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	50% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	45% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	38% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	95% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1320 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	59 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	11 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	110 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	78 cfs

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 90°	Titusville, Fla.
Low: -50°	Ely, Minn.
Wettest: 2.12"	Fort Myers, Fla.

OREGON

High: 54°	North Bend
Low: 5°	Meacham
Wettest: 0.63"	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

On Feb. 16, 1958, a storm brought heavy, windblown snow to the northern and mid-Atlantic states. Accumulations from Washington, D.C., through Philadelphia and New York City to Boston exceeded 12 inches.

SUN & MOON

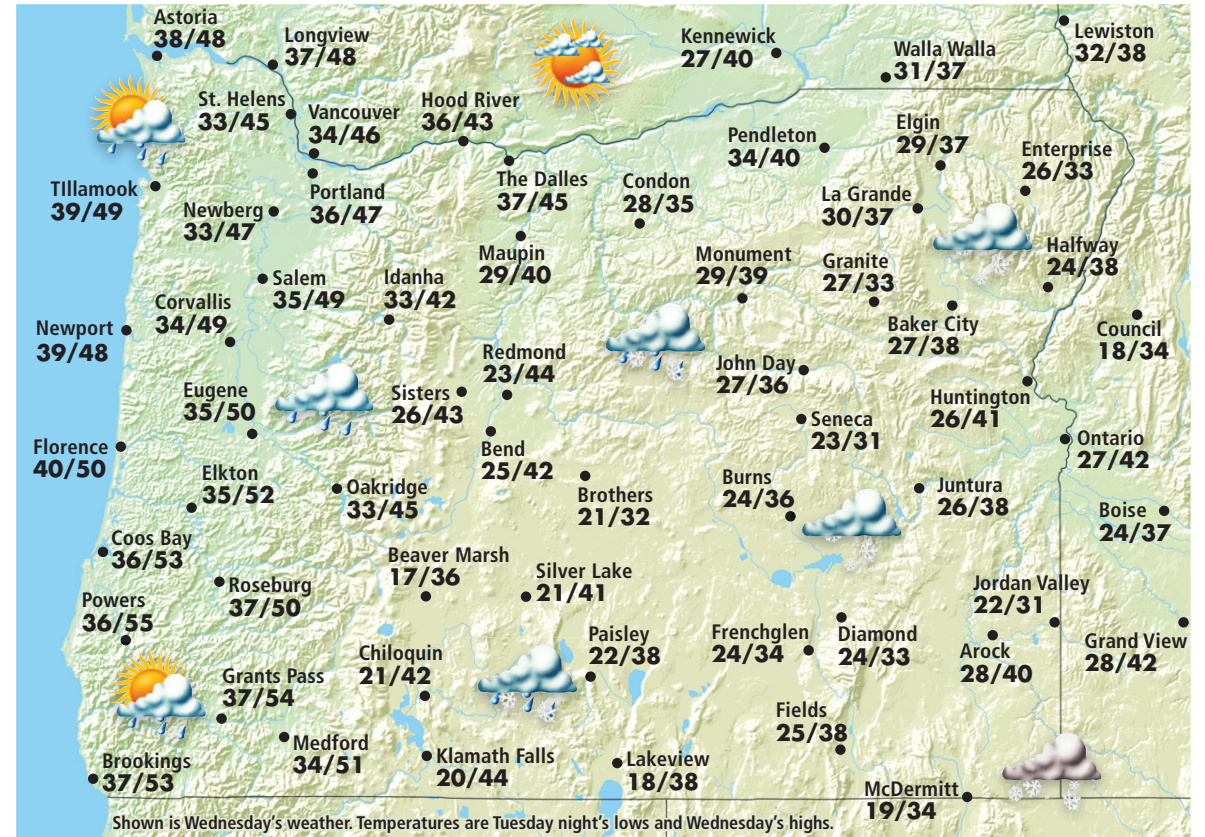
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	6:52 a.m.	6:51 a.m.
Sunset	5:21 p.m.	5:23 p.m.
Moonrise	9:20 a.m.	9:40 a.m.
Moonset	10:41 p.m.	11:44 p.m.

MOON PHASES

Phase	Feb 19	Feb 27	Mar 5	Mar 13
First				
Full				
Last				
New				

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. Hi/Lo/W	THU. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	48/38/c	47/42/sh
Bend	42/25/pc	44/34/r
Boise	37/17/pc	37/31/c
Brookings	53/43/c	51/43/r
Burns	36/14/pc	36/31/sf
Coos Bay	53/40/c	50/41/sh
Corvallis	49/35/c	48/42/sh
Council	34/6/sf	33/24/sn
Elgin	37/11/sf	36/33/sn
Eugene	50/38/c	49/42/sh
Hermiston	44/25/s	39/33/r
Hood River	43/25/sn	37/35/r
Imnaha	38/15/sf	39/32/c
John Day	36/16/pc	37/33/r
Joseph	31/8/sf	35/28/sn
Kennewick	40/19/s	35/29/r
Klamath Falls	44/22/pc	41/31/sh
Lakeview	38/17/pc	39/31/c

City	WED. Hi/Lo/W	THU. Hi/Lo/W
Lewiston	38/19/pc	37/35/sn
Longview	48/34/c	41/39/sh
Meacham	35/11/sf	36/31/c
Medford	51/37/pc	47/40/r
Newport	48/41/c	49/43/r
Olympia	47/33/c	43/40/r
Ontario	42/18/pc	37/30/sf
Pasco	38/23/s	35/31/c
Pendleton	40/20/pc	39/36/sh
Portland	47/35/c	44/41/sh
Powers	55/40/c	52/40/r
Redmond	44/23/pc	45/31/sh
Roseburg	50/39/c	50/43/r
Salem	49/36/c	46/41/sh
Spokane	33/20/c	35/30/sn
The Dalles	45/30/c	38/34/r
Ukiah	34/10/pc	35/34/sf
Walla Walla	37/23/pc	34/34/r

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Morning flurries	18	7
PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly cloudy	33	14
MT. EMILY REC.	Morning flurries	25	11
BROWNLEE RES.	Morning flurries	37	10
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Morning flurries	23	0
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Morning flurries	30	8
WALLOWA LAKE	Morning flurries	31	8
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Some sun; chilly	39	22
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Rather cloudy	38	16
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Morning flurries	37	13

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9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sat. 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sun. 12 noon - 4 pm