

Boyfriend makes a grab for woman's child tax credit

DEAR ABBY: My daughter received her tax refund recently. It amounted to \$8,700. Approximately \$5,000 is for overpaying on taxes. Approximately \$3,000 is the child tax credit she receives for her two children. Her boyfriend, the father of the two boys, thinks he's entitled to some of her money.



Now, I understand the child tax credit is given for financial help for the children. My daughter and I agree that the \$5,000 is hers exclusively as she is the one who paid those taxes. As far as the

child tax credit is concerned, her boyfriend thinks that he should be entitled to at least half of that because he's the father. We think because she is the one paying for the year's health insurance, doctor copays, prescriptions and most of the diapers, wipes, pullups and other incidentals, it should all be hers.

Don't get me wrong. Her boyfriend does contribute to the household and is a great guy. They split most of the bills. After five years, this is their first big disagreement.

He chooses to get money during the year, so of course he gets a lower tax refund at the end of the year. FYI, she pays less for the baby supplies because she works at a warehouse. He contributes when they are low by picking some up at the grocery store. What advice do you have?

— MONEY WOES

DEAR MONEY WOES: Watch your daughter's "great" boyfriend closely because his stance is troubling. Because he is the father (!) doesn't mean he has a right to any portion of the child tax credit. If he needs reimbursement for the items he picks up for his children at the grocery store,

your daughter should repay him out of her salary, not by forking over half of her tax credit. That money is intended for the kids, not for any one parent. If things aren't clear enough, consider putting the tax credit money in a separate account.

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Frank" passed away last month. He didn't have any underlying medical conditions, so it was a shock. My problem is, when I was 9 and he was 14, he used to molest me while my mother was working.

For years, I never told anyone, but when I was 40, I told my mom and big brother. Both of them believed me. For the past

five years, I had been there for Frank and his daughter, but I was always waiting for an apology from him that never came. Now it's all I dwell on. How can I move past this and try to remember the good times?

— PERPLEXED

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your religious adviser may be able to help you with that. However, if you are not religious, it may take some sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Your niece, Frank's daughter, should be asked if her father ever did anything that made her uncomfortable because, if he did, she may need professional help.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Wine that went to space for sale with \$1 million price tag

LONDON — The wine is out of this world. The price is appropriately stratospheric.

Christie's said Tuesday, May 4, it is selling a bottle of French wine that spent more than a year in orbit aboard the International Space Station. The auction house thinks a wine connoisseur might pay as much as \$1 million to own it.

The Pétrus 2000 is one of 12 bottles sent into space in November 2019 by researchers exploring the potential for extra-terrestrial agriculture. It returned 14 months later subtly altered, according to wine experts who sampled it at a tasting in France.

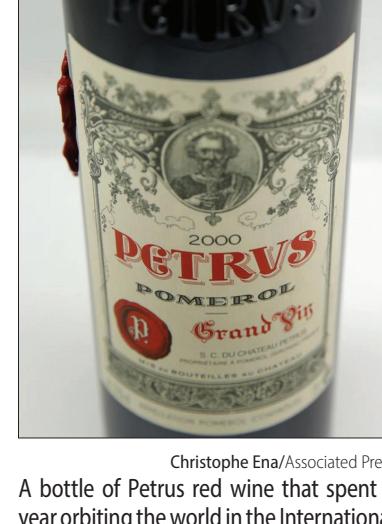
Tim Tiptree, international director of Christie's wine and spirits department, said the space-aged wine was "matured in a unique environment" of near zero-gravity aboard the space station.

The trip turned a \$10,000-a-bottle wine known for its complexity, silky, ripe tannins and flavors of black cherry, cigar box and leather into a scientific novelty — and still a fine bottle of wine, Tiptree said.

"It's just a very harmonious wine that has the ability to age superbly, which is why it was chosen for this experiment," he said. "It's very encouraging that it was delicious on return to Earth."

Private space startup Space Cargo Unlimited sent the wine into orbit in November 2019 as part of an effort to make plants on Earth more resilient to climate change and disease by exposing them to new stresses. Researchers also want to better understand the aging process, fermentation and bubbles in wine.

At a taste test in March at the Institute for Wine and Vine Research in Bordeaux, France, a dozen wine connoisseurs compared one of the space-traveled wines to a bottle from the same



Christophe Ena/Associated Press

A bottle of Petrus red wine that spent a year orbiting the world in the International Space Station is pictured in Paris Monday, May 3, 2021. Christie's said Tuesday, May 4, 2021, it is offering the bottle of French wine for a private sale, with a stratospheric price tag in the region of 1 million euro.

vintage that had stayed in a cellar.

They noted a difference that was hard to describe. Jane Anson, a writer with the wine publication Decanter, said the wine that remained on Earth tasted a bit younger, the space version slightly softer and more aromatic.

The wine, being offered by Christie's in a private sale, comes with a bottle of terrestrial Pétrus of the same vintage, a decanter, glasses and a corkscrew crafted from a meteorite. It's all held in a hand-crafted wooden trunk with decoration inspired by science fiction pioneer Jules Verne and the "Star Trek" universe.

Proceeds from the sale will fund future research by Space Cargo Unlimited. Several other bottles from the dozen that went to space remain unopened, but Christie's says there are no plans to sell any of them.

Tiptree says the price estimate, "in the region of \$1 million," reflects the sale's likely appeal to a mix of wine connoisseurs, space buffs and the kind of wealthy people who collect "ultimate experiences."



Virginia Mayo/Associated Press, File

Microbar food truck owner Bart Smit holds a container of yellow mealworms during a food truck festival Sept. 21, 2014, in Antwerp, Belgium. Dried yellow mealworms soon could be hitting supermarket's shelves and restaurants across Europe. The 27 nations of the European Union gave the greenlight Tuesday, May 4, 2021, to a proposal to put the Tenebrio molitor beetle's larvae on the market as a "novel food."

The lot includes the bottle of 2000 Pétrus that remained on Earth so the buyer can compare the two — should they decide to open the one that went into orbit.

"I would hope that they will decide to drink it, but maybe not immediately," Tiptree said. "It's at its peak drinking, but this wine will last probably another at least another two or three decades."

Food of the future? EU nations put mealworms on the menu

BRUSSELS — Dried yellow mealworms could soon be hitting supermarket shelves and restaurants across Europe.

The European Union's 27 nations gave the greenlight Tuesday, April 4, to a proposal to put the Tenebrio molitor beetle's larvae on the market as a "novel food."

The move came after the EU's food safety agency published a scientific opinion this year that concluded worms were safe to eat. Researchers said the worms,

either eaten whole or in powdered form, are a protein-rich snack or an ingredient for other foods.

Allergic reactions may occur for people with pre-existing allergies to crustaceans and dust mites, the Commission said.

Insects as food represent a very small market but EU officials said breeding them for food could have environmental benefits. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization calls insects "a healthy and highly nutritious food source with a high content of fat, protein, vitamins, fibers and minerals."

Following Tuesday's approval by EU states, a EU regulation authorizing dried yellow mealworms as a food will be adopted in the coming weeks.

0 Patience for others? Small island's only home hits market

PORTSMOUTH, R.I. — Zero patience for the company of others? Anyone who's ever wanted their own private island getaway now has a chance — and

it might be less expensive than you'd think.

The only house on a small island in Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay — with the unique address of 0 Patience Way — has hit the market for an asking price of \$399,900, The Newport Daily News reported Monday.

The cottage on Patience Island is off the electrical grid, but comes with just under a half-acre of land and approximately 600 square feet of living area that includes two bedrooms, a kitchenette, a half bath and what is described as a "picturesque front porch." A single solar panel does provide some electrical services.

"Perfect for comfortable camping, getaways, amazing Airbnb potential & more," the listing from Rhode Island Real Estate Services says.

The cottage also has a unique address — 0 Patience Way.

The island, officially part of the town of Portsmouth, is about one-third of a square mile.

— Associated Press

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weather

TONIGHT		FRI		SAT		SUN		MON	
Baker City	44 Comfort Index™ 8	57 2	31	58 8	34	56 2	34	65 10	35
La Grande	43 Comfort Index™ 8	56 3	38	59 9	38	54 2	39	67 10	37
Enterprise	42 Comfort Index™ 8	55 2	33	55 8	37	49 2	36	59 10	37

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	64°	66°	69°
Low Tuesday	35°	38°	42°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Tuesday	Trace	Trace	Trace
Month to date	0.03	0.02	0.03
Normal month to date	0.16	0.24	0.28
Year to date	1.69	5.86	13.74
Normal year to date	3.21	6.05	9.97

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity 35%
Afternoon wind NW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine 6.8
Evapotranspiration 0.12

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir 23% of capacity
Unity Reservoir 99% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir 56% of capacity
McKay Reservoir 97% of capacity
Wallowa Lake 63% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir 100% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy 6860 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder 46 cfs
Burnt River near Unity 168 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon 743 cfs
Minam River at Minam 1070 cfs
Powder River near Richland 77 cfs

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