

# New mother feels guilty for canceling adoption



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

**Dear Abby:** I recently backed out of an adoption. I feel terrible about it. How can I mentally and emotionally get over this? My baby girl is 4 months old now, and my guilt is getting worse. I backed out three days before she was born.

The couple I had chosen turned out to be unprofessional and emotionally unstable. They not only caused me several problems but also my job, which I loved. During the four months I knew them, they treated me

poorly, and I realized it was better for my baby not to go through with the adoption.

They are now trying to make me out to be a bad person who used them financially — something I really did not. I'm glad now that I kept my daughter. So why do I keep feeling so bad about my decision? — **Guilt-Ridden In The Midwest**

**Dear Guilt-Ridden:** If I had to guess the reason, I would say it may be because you know your last-minute change of mind caused this couple pain. A way to assuage your guilt might be to work out a payment plan so they are not out the money they spent. (The lawyer or agency that arranged the adoption may

be able to guide you.)

**Dear Abby:** I have two sisters. We were very close until our mother passed away two years ago. In her trust, the proceeds from the sale of her house were to be divided among the three of us. Only one sister has children. (They are grown.) My two sisters have decided we should split the proceeds from Mom's house (about \$800,000) five ways to include the adult children. Their mother has threatened to "disown me" if I don't go along with the five-way split.

I have always done right by her "kids," and neither sister bothered to ask for my reason for not wanting to include my

nephew and niece in the inheritance. I love my sisters and do not want to lose them, but I also don't want to be bullied into a decision I cannot support. — **To Divide Or Not Divide**

**Dear To Divide:** Your mother's wishes were that the money be divided three ways. Your sisters should abide by the directions of the trust. I agree you shouldn't be bullied or threatened into taking less than your mother wanted you to have. If your sisters want "the kids" to have a share of the inheritance, they should gift the amount from their portion rather than extort it from you. Their attitude has not only tarnished something that should have been a blessing, but

also created a rift in the family, and that's a shame.

**Dear Abby:** I could really use your help. I don't know how to respond to people I hardly know who end conversations with "I love you." I don't feel comfortable saying that to someone and not meaning it. This isn't like saying, "Have a nice day." Is there a polite way of responding without saying something that to me is totally inappropriate to someone I only have a casual relationship with? — **Uncomfortable In The Midwest**

**Dear Uncomfortable:** Respond this way: "What a sweet thing to say. Thank you!" Then smile and fade out.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Japan's former princess leaves for US with commoner husband

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A Japanese princess who gave up her royal status to marry her commoner college sweetheart arrived in New York on Sunday, Nov. 14, as the couple pursued happiness as newlyweds and left behind a nation that has criticized their romance.

The departure of Mako Komuro, the former Princess Mako, and Kei Komuro, both 30, was carried live by major Japanese broadcasters, showing them boarding a plane amid a flurry of camera flashes at Haneda Airport in Tokyo.

Photos posted online showed the couple arriving at JFK Airport.

Kei Komuro, a graduate of Fordham University law school, has a job at a New York law firm. He has yet to pass his bar exam, another piece of news that local media have used to attack him, although it is common to pass after multiple attempts.

"I love Mako," he told reporters last month after registering their marriage in Tokyo. They did so without a wedding



Eugene Hoshiko/The Associated Press

**Japan's former Princess Mako, left, the elder daughter of Crown Prince Akishino, takes her mask off at a boarding gate to board an airplane to New York with her husband Kei Komuro, not in picture, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, at Tokyo International Airport in Tokyo.**

banquet or any of the other usual celebratory rituals.

"I want to live the only life I have with the person I love," he said.

Although Japan appears modern in many ways, values about family relations and the status of women often are seen as somewhat antiquated, rooted in

feudal practices.

Such views were accentuated in the public's reaction to the marriage. Some Japanese feel they have a say in such matters because taxpayer money supports the imperial family system.

Other princesses have married commoners and left the palace. But Mako is the first to

have drawn such a public outcry, including a frenzied reaction on social media and in local tabloids.

Speculation ranged from whether the couple could afford to live in Manhattan to how much money Kei Komuro would earn and if the former princess would end up financially supporting her husband.

Mako is the niece of Emperor Naruhito, who also married a commoner, Masako. Masako often suffered mentally in the cloistered, regulated life of the imperial family. The negative media coverage surrounding Mako's marriage gave her what palace doctors described last month as a form of traumatic stress disorder.

Former Emperor Akihito, the father of the current emperor, was the first member of the imperial family to marry a commoner. His father was the emperor under whom Japan fought in World War II.

The family holds no political power but serves as a symbol of the nation, attending ceremonial events and visiting disaster zones, and remains relatively popular.

Mako's loss of royal status comes from the Imperial House Law, which allows only male succession. Only male royals have household names, while female imperial family members have only titles and must leave if they marry commoners.

Mako is the daughter of the emperor's younger brother, and her 15-year-old brother is expected to eventually be emperor.

Complicating the former princess's marriage, announced in 2017, was a financial dispute involving Kei Komuro's mother. That issue was recently settled, according to Kyodo news service.

When Kei Komuro returned from the U.S. in September, the couple was reunited for the first time in three years. They met while attending Tokyo's International Christian University a decade ago.

In announcing their marriage, the former princess, a museum curator, made her choice clear.

"He is someone I cannot do without," she said. "Marriage is that decision needed for us to live on, staying true to our hearts."

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# weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Cloudy with a shower	Mostly cloudy	Rather cloudy	Showers around; cooler	Mostly sunny and chilly
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56</b> <b>37</b>	<b>58</b> <b>30</b>	<b>41</b> <b>22</b>	<b>40</b> <b>22</b>
Comfort Index™	7	7	6	0	2
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>59</b> <b>50</b>	<b>62</b> <b>36</b>	<b>40</b> <b>25</b>	<b>40</b> <b>29</b>
Comfort Index™	7	9	8	0	1
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56</b> <b>48</b>	<b>60</b> <b>31</b>	<b>36</b> <b>20</b>	<b>36</b> <b>28</b>
Comfort Index™	7	8	10	0	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 Thursday	43°	47°	47°
Low Thursday	33°	40°	32°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.15	0.61	0.46
Month to date	0.61	1.10	1.45
Normal month to date	0.26	0.68	0.95
Year to date	4.96	9.50	19.96
Normal year to date	7.74	14.26	19.98

### THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	OREGON
High: 102°	Roseburg
Low: 3°	Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.
Wettest: 2.95"	Tillamook, Ore.
High: 70°	Joseph
Low: 28°	Joseph
Wettest: 2.60"	Tillamook

### AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	S at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.4
Evapotranspiration	0.08

### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Reservoir	Capacity
Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	12% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	13% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	12% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	7% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	1% of capacity

### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Stream	Flow (cfs)
Grande Ronde at Troy	851
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0
Burnt River near Unity	15
Umatilla River near Gibbon	73
Minam River at Minam	133
Powder River near Richland	9

### WEATHER HISTORY

On Nov. 13, 1883, the Leonids Meteor Shower put on a spectacular show from midnight to dawn. Clear skies favored viewing in many parts of the country.

### SUN & MOON

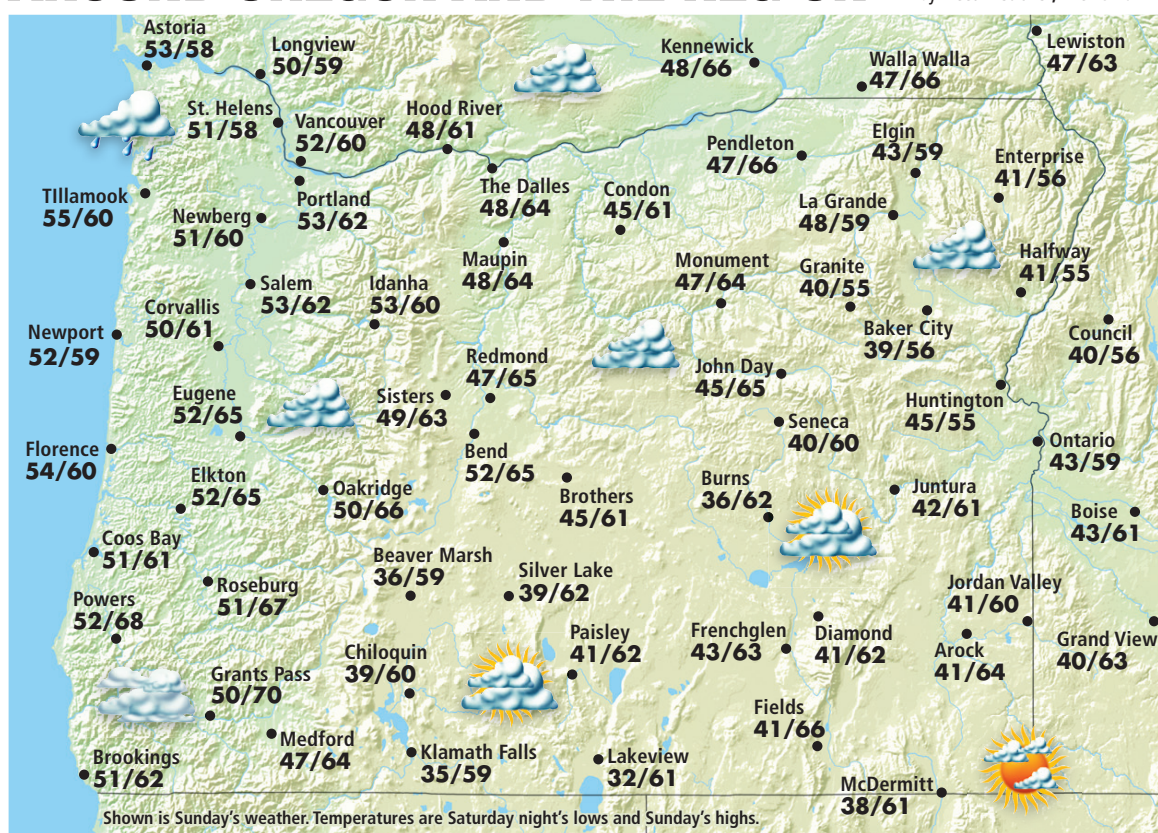
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:48 a.m.	6:50 a.m.
Sunset	4:24 p.m.	4:23 p.m.
Moonrise	2:28 p.m.	2:47 p.m.
Moonset	12:41 a.m.	1:50 a.m.

### MOON PHASES

Phase	Nov 19	Nov 27	Dec 3	Dec 10
Full				
Last				
New				
First				

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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### REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W	City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	58/53/r	54/42/r	Lewiston	63/48/c	63/41/c
Bend	65/50/pc	66/32/sh	Longview	59/54/r	57/41/r
Boise	61/47/pc	63/38/pc	Meacham	58/51/c	60/34/c
Brookings	62/52/c	57/45/sh	Medford	64/46/pc	60/39/sh
Burns	62/35/c	63/25/c	Newport	59/50/c	55/44/r
Coos Bay	61/52/c	60/41/sh	Olympia	58/51/r	54/38/r
Corvallis	61/51/c	56/39/sh	Ontario	59/41/c	57/38/pc
Council	56/44/c	58/31/c	Pasco	67/55/c	65/41/c
Elgin	59/49/c	59/34/c	Pendleton	66/54/c	66/38/c
Eugene	65/52/pc	58/39/sh	Portland	62/55/sh	58/41/r
Hermiston	67/53/c	68/41/c	Powers	68/51/c	63/43/sh
Hood River	61/50/sh	59/41/sh	Redmond	65/48/pc	62/31/sh
Imnaha	61/51/c	62/35/c	Roseburg	67/50/c	60/41/sh
John Day	65/48/c	66/32/c	Salem	62/55/c	58/40/sh
Joseph	55/47/c	58/29/c	Spokane	57/49/c	57/33/c
Kennewick	66/57/c	68/41/c	The Dalles	64/49/pc	60/42/sh
Klamath Falls	59/35/c	58/27/r	Ukiah	59/46/c	59/30/c
Lakeview	61/37/pc	59/26/sh	Walla Walla	66/53/c	62/38/c

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

### RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

Location	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W
ANTHONY LAKES	43	38
PHILLIPS LAKE	55	40
MT. EMILY REC.	49	49
BROWNLEE RES.	60	43
EAGLE CAP WILD.	43	36
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	55	43
WALLOWA LAKE	55	47
MCKAY RESERVOIR	65	57
THIEF VALLEY RES.	56	37
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	59	50

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