

Dad's bursts of enthusiasm collide with boys' bedtime



DEAR ABBY

ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My husband gets very upset when our 4-year-old sons don't share his enthusiasm over something that excites him. He wants them (and me) to jump up and down or cheer when he's excited about something. The problem is, he tends to share his news when we're getting ready for bed or just plain tired. I feel guilty for not acquiescing, but at the same time, I don't want to fake it. Any suggestions for a compromise, please? — AT A LOSS IN TEXAS

DEAR AT A LOSS: Explain to your husband that you are "sorry" he's upset at the lack of enthusiasm he's receiving when he's excited about something, but his TIMING is off. If he expects you and the children to be his cheering section, it would be helpful if he timed his announcements so they don't conflict with bedtime, when everyone's energy level is low.

DEAR ABBY: My former husband and I have been divorced for more than two years. We had our wedding reception in a club with live music, and we would go there every Saturday night to listen to the music. We were divorced shortly after our marriage because he had frequent violent outbursts.

After our divorce, he called and asked if we could have a date night. When I went out with him, it was great. We listened to the musicians, and no one knew we were divorced.

My ex had serious surgery, which I helped him through, but because of a subsequent violent episode from him, I have now severed all ties with him. I'd like to go back and listen to the musicians, but I don't know what to say when they ask me where he is. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. — UNCERTAIN MUSIC LOVER

DEAR MUSIC LOVER: When you are asked, all you need to say is, "John" and I are no longer a couple, so you won't

be seeing him with me anymore. I may have split with my husband, but I haven't fallen out of love with your music." It isn't necessary to share any details beyond that.

DEAR ABBY: My grandparents have been very generous. They provided for me in ways my parents could not when I was a child. They allowed me to take music lessons and vacations, let me travel with them and paid for my higher education. They also started an investment fund for me that has grown nicely.

Now I'm married (I'm 37; my husband is 42), we are financially stable and obtaining financial counseling, and we have decided to place those funds in

a different form of investment. The rub is that Grandma objects to any changes to these gifts and puts pressure on us. How do I thank her for her generosity and let her know we are handling our finances now? — CUTTING THE APRON STRINGS

DEAR CUTTING: Start by telling your grandmother again how grateful you are for everything she has provided these many years. Explain to her what your investment plans are for the money that has accumulated, and your reasons for wanting to change. If she has concerns, hear them out and suggest she discuss them with the financial adviser you plan to employ, which might put her worries to rest.

Free community workshops on Blue Mountains Trail planned

EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — The Greater Hells Canyon Council is planning a series of free community engagement workshops to talk with local residents about the Blue Mountains Trail, the first two scheduled in late May in Sumpter and La Grande.

That's the 566-mile route that runs between John Day and Wallowa Lake State Park. In between the trail, which includes existing trails and roads, along with short sections of cross-country travel, passes through all seven of the federal wilderness areas in Northeast Oregon — Eagle Cap, Hells Canyon, Wenaha-Tucannon, North Fork Umatilla, North Fork John Day, Monument Rock and Strawberry Mountain.

In the summer and fall of 2020, Renee Patrick, an experienced long-distance hiker from Bend, became the first person to complete a solo hike of the Blue Mountains Trail.

In September of that year, three other hikers — Whitney La Ruffa, Naomi Hudetz and Mike Unger — also followed the entire route.

Jared Kennedy, the development director for the Greater Hells Canyon Council and project lead for the Blue Mountains Trail, is scheduling the workshops.

The first is set for Wednesday, May 25, at the Sumpter Community Hall, 275 N. Mill St. from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The second workshop will take place Thursday, May 26 at the Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St. in La Grande, also from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To register for either workshop, go to <https://www.hellscanyon.org/events>.



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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Scientists grow plants in lunar dirt, next stop moon

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — For the first time, scientists have grown plants in soil from the moon collected by NASA's Apollo astronauts.

Researchers had no idea if anything would sprout in the harsh moon dirt and wanted to see if it could be used to grow food by the next generation of lunar explorers. The results stunned them.

"Holy cow. Plants actually grow in lunar stuff. Are you kidding me?" said Robert Ferl of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

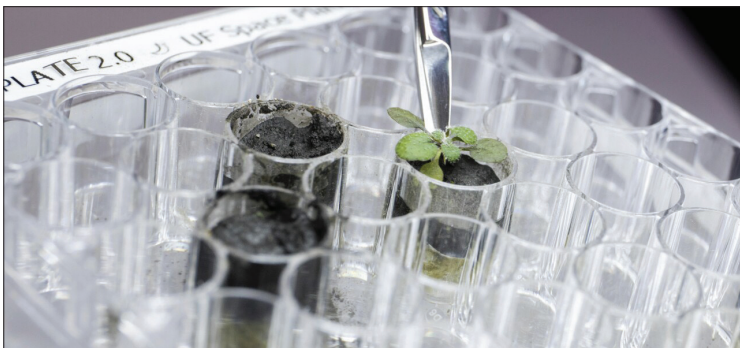
Ferl and his colleagues planted thale cress in moon soil returned by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, and other moonwalkers. The good news: All of the seeds sprouted.

The downside was that after the first week, the coarseness and other properties of the lunar soil stressed the small, flowering weeds so much that they grew more slowly than seedlings planted in fake moon dirt from Earth. Most of the moon plants ended up stunted.

Results were published Thursday, May 12, in Communications Biology.

The longer the soil was exposed to punishing cosmic radiation and solar wind on the moon, the worse the plants seemed to do. The Apollo 11 samples — exposed a couple billion years longer to the elements because of the Sea of Tranquility's older surface — were the least conducive for growth, according to scientists.

"This is a big step forward to know that you can grow plants," said Simon Gilroy, a space plant biologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who had



Tyler Jones/University of Florida

In this 2021 photo provided by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, a researcher harvests a thale cress plant growing in lunar soil, at a laboratory in Gainesville, Fla. For the first time, scientists have used lunar soil collected by long-ago moonwalkers to grow plants, with results promising enough that NASA and others already are envisioning hothouses on the moon for the next generation of lunar explorers.

no role in the study. "The real next step is to go and do it on the surface of the moon."

Moon dirt is full of tiny, glass fragments from micrometeorite impacts that got everywhere in the Apollo lunar landers and wore down the moonwalkers' spacesuits.

One solution might be to use younger geologic spots on the moon, like lava flows, for digging up planting soil. The environment also could be tweaked, altering the nutrient mixture or adjusting the artificial lighting.

Only 842 pounds of moon rocks and soil were brought back by six Apollo crews. Some of the earliest moon dust was sprinkled on plants under quarantine with the Apollo astronauts in Houston after returning from the moon.

Most of the lunar stash remained locked away, forcing researchers to experiment with simulated soil made of volcanic ash on Earth. NASA finally doled out 12 grams to the University of Florida researchers early last year, and the long-awaited planting took place last May in a lab.

NASA said the timing for

such an experiment was finally right, with the space agency looking to put astronauts back on the moon in a few years.

The ideal situation would be for future astronauts to tap into the endless supply of available local dirt for indoor planting versus setting up a hydroponic, or all-water, system, scientists said.

"The fact that anything grew means that we have a really good starting point, and now the question is how do we optimize and improve," said Sharmila Bhattacharya, NASA's program scientist for space biology.

The Florida scientists hope to recycle their lunar soil later this year, planting more thale cress before possibly moving on to other vegetation.

'Succession' star glues hand to Starbucks counter in protest

NEW YORK — Actor and activist James Cromwell has gone from "Succession's" Uncle Ewan to real-life supergluin' — pasting his hand to a midtown Manhattan Starbucks counter on Tuesday, May 10, to protest the coffee chain's extra charge

for plant-based milk.

The 82-year-old Oscar nominee, known for "Babe: Pig in the City" and "L.A. Confidential," channeled his role as the crotchety, anti-capitalist brother of a billionaire media mogul for the protest organized by the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Cromwell sat on the Starbucks counter wearing a "Free the Animals" T-shirt and read a statement denouncing the surcharge for vegan milk alternatives.

"When will you stop raking in huge profits while customers, animals and the environment suffer?" he demanded as fellow activists streamed the protest on Facebook.

Cromwell glued his hand to the counter, then later used a knife to scrape it off. Police said there were no arrests.

Starbucks outlets in the United States charge 50 cents to a dollar more drinks made with plant-based milks.

"Customers can customize any beverage on the menu with a non-dairy milk, including soy-milk, coconutmilk, almond-milk, and oatmilk for an additional cost (similar to other beverage customizations such as an additional espresso shot or syrup)," a Starbucks spokesperson said in a statement. "Pricing varies market by market."

The spokesperson said Starbucks respects customers' right to voice their opinions "so long as it does not disrupt our store operations."

Cromwell, nominated for an Academy Award for his role as the farmer in "Babe," is a veteran protester who was charged with trespassing in 2017 for interrupting an orca show at SeaWorld in San Diego.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Baker City	42	74 45	67 40	65 40	58 37
Comfort Index™	4	10	9	10	2
La Grande	45	77 51	64 40	60 40	57 40
Comfort Index™	6	10	8	10	5
Enterprise	40	75 49	61 38	59 36	55 40
Comfort Index™	7	9	9	9	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	59°	63°	62°
Low Thursday	29°	32°	32°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.01	0.09	Trace
Month to date	0.58	0.75	1.90
Normal month to date	0.50	0.87	0.92
Year to date	2.51	4.53	11.77
Normal year to date	3.38	7.32	11.21

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 103°	Presidio, Texas
Low: 4°	Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 2.25"	Quillayute, Wash.
OREGON	
High: 68°	Ontario
Low: 23°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 1.27"	Florence

WEATHER HISTORY

The temperature at Climax, Colo., sank to 10 degrees below zero on May 14, 1896. That is the coldest temperature ever recorded in the United States in May.

SUN & MOON

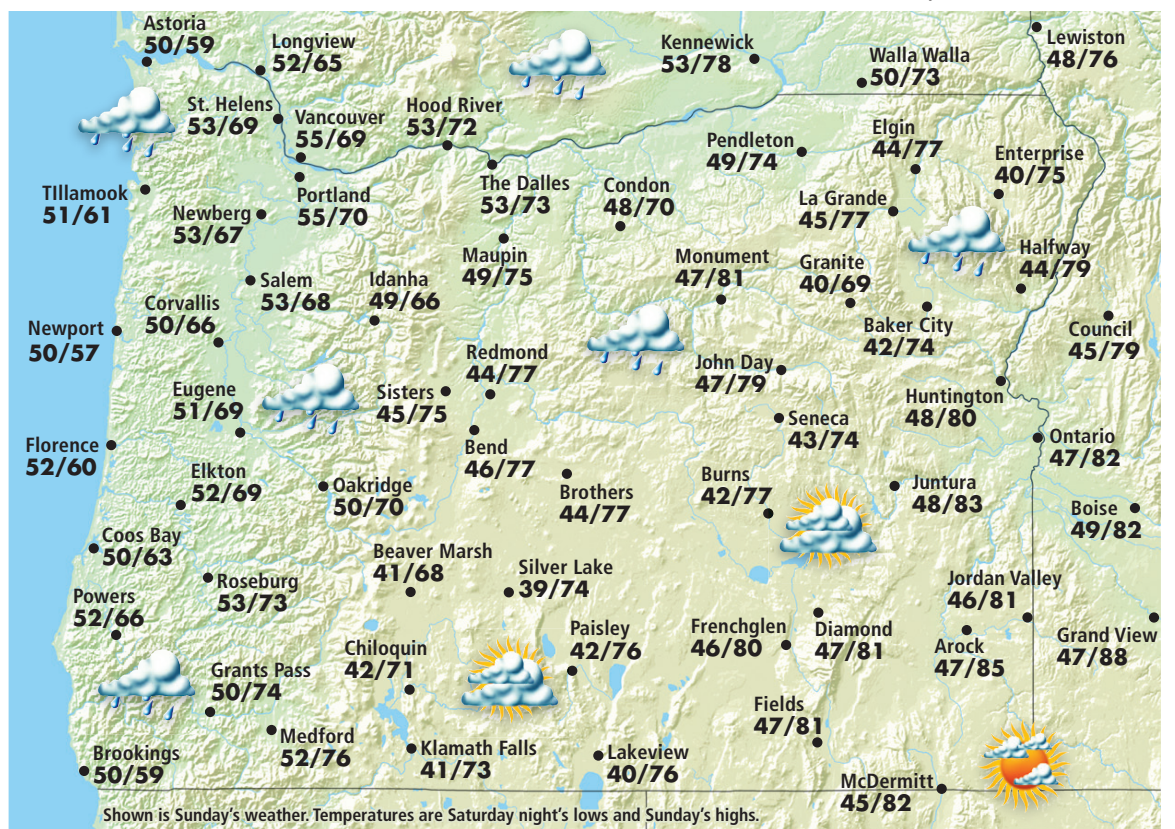
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	5:24 a.m.	5:22 a.m.
Sunset	8:14 p.m.	8:16 p.m.
Moonset	6:48 p.m.	8:11 p.m.
Moonrise	4:40 a.m.	5:05 a.m.

MOON PHASES



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	59/47/r	55/43/c	Lewiston	76/54/t	70/49/c
Bend	77/43/pc	69/38/pc	Longview	65/51/sh	58/41/c
Boise	82/53/s	77/49/pc	Meacham	74/48/t	63/38/c
Brookings	59/47/r	57/45/pc	Medford	76/51/pc	72/45/pc
Burns	77/44/t	71/39/pc	Newport	57/47/r	55/40/c
Coos Bay	63/46/c	57/40/c	Olympia	61/47/sh	60/38/c
Corvallis	66/49/c	62/39/pc	Ontario	82/54/c	80/51/c
Council	79/52/c	72/47/pc	Pasco	76/56/c	75/47/c
Elgin	77/47/t	63/39/c	Pendleton	74/57/t	65/46/c
Eugene	69/50/c	64/39/c	Portland	70/55/sh	65/47/c
Hermiston	77/57/c	71/48/c	Powers	66/50/c	59/45/r
Hood River	72/54/c	67/47/c	Redmond	77/45/c	68/36/pc
Imnaha	79/57/c	66/44/t	Roseburg	73/53/c	65/42/c
John Day	79/49/t	69/41/c	Salem	68/51/sh	65/45/pc
Joseph	71/48/t	64/39/sh	Spokane	68/48/c	64/43/c
Kennewick	78/58/c	76/49/pc	The Dalles	73/53/c	70/49/c
Klamath Falls	73/39/pc	69/34/pc	Ukiah	76/47/t	61/35/sh
Lakeview	76/40/s	70/36/pc	Walla Walla	73/52/t	67/46/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

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
A p.m. t-shower	A p.m. t-shower
51 37	72 47
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
A p.m. t-shower	Warmer
63 45	80 55
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
A p.m. t-shower	A p.m. t-shower
55 40	70 44
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
A p.m. t-shower	A p.m. t-shower
71 48	74 53
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
A p.m. t-shower	A p.m. t-shower
74 45	77 51