

DEAR ABBY

New mom doesn't take kindly to MIL's unwelcome opinions

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to a wonderful husband and I am a new mom to an 11-week-old beautiful baby boy. I am fortunate to have 12 weeks of maternity leave, after which my baby will be starting day care. This decision was very difficult, but necessary. I enjoy my career, and my husband has a good career as well. My parents still work full time, and his parents are too old (in my opinion) to safely watch their grandbaby while also keeping him engaged.

My mother-in-law, "Ella," is sometimes very rude, and we have never seen eye to eye. Four days ago, my in-laws and other family came to visit the baby. When the topic of day care came up, Ella said, "Babies in day care cry and no one picks them up." She also said, "He's going to be sick and miserable all the time."

Abby, I am furious about her comments. As if I don't already have enough anxiety over sending my baby to day care. I ignored her because I didn't want to cause a scene in front of the other family members. I know she said it because she's mad she's not going to be watching him. She has made nasty comments in the past about other stuff, which I always let go.

I told my husband he needs to stick up for me and tell her she needs to cut it out, but he wants me to ignore her comments as he has his entire life. I told him either he or we need to tell her we will no longer tolerate her nasty remarks or she's no longer seeing her grandson.

My husband hates confrontation in general, but especially with his mother. Ever

since Ella said what she did, I have been on edge with him. I think he should stand up for me, but he doesn't want to rock the boat. Am I being too extreme by not allowing Ella to see her grandson? — DAY CARE MOM IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DAY CARE MOM: You have a wonderful husband, but part of the package is his mother, who has a big mouth and poor judgment about what comes out of it. While I sympathize with your predicament, it occurs to me that your dislike of her is coloring your thinking in this instance. Rather than take it out on your husband, develop a thicker skin where Ella is concerned. Of course she should be allowed to visit her grandchild. Remember above all, YOU are the mother and YOU get

to make the decisions about your son's care.

DEAR ABBY: I need help! I don't know how to tell my wife of 21 years that her breath smells awful. I really miss our passionate kissing. I just can't get past the smell of her breath. How can I tell her without hurting her feelings? — AT ARM'S LENGTH IN LOUISIANA

DEAR AT ARM'S LENGTH: For the sake of your marriage, speak up. Telling someone their breath is "strong" should not cause embarrassment. (I would certainly want to know!) There can be more than one reason for halitosis. Could it be her diet? Is she drinking enough water? Does she need to make an appointment with her dentist for a checkup? If none of those things helps, she should consult her physician to make sure her bad breath isn't a symptom of something serious.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1922

That the congestion which has prevailed in the motor vehicle division of the department of state at Salem has been cleared up is information divulged in a letter received by various officers of the city of Pendleton and Umatilla county from Sam A. Krozer, secretary of state. As a result of the ability of the division to take care of applications for motor licenses as rapidly as they are received, Pendleton's Traffic Officer Turner announced today that all drivers whose cars are not provided with 1922 licenses will be arrested and subject to a fine.

50 years ago — 1972

Umatilla County Assessor Rod Esselstyn expects a healthy increase in the county's assessed valuation as a result of a change in classification of many mobile homes. Mobile homes more than eight feet in width as of Jan. 1 are now classed as real property rather than designated as a trailer. It makes no difference whether they are really mobile any more. "We have found lots of them so far," Esselstyn said, "but we aren't sure we will find them all unless the owners tell us about them." A penalty would be levied if the homes are not listed on the tax rolls. He said no totals have been taken on the mobile homes

his appraisers have counted so far, "but if we were to pick up 3,000 of them at an average valuation of \$3,000, that would add \$9 million to the county's tax rolls."

25 years ago — 1997

We are living in the most dangerous spot in the world. That's the impression that 11-year-old Alicia Engelhard of Hermiston got from a CBS News "Eye on America" broadcast. She couldn't sleep, her mind filled with the thoughts of deadly nerve gas filtering into her family's Sunshine Lane home. Spurred by growing concerns, she went with her parents to the depot to get some answers. They met with the depot's commander and public affairs officer and were taken to the Emergency Operations Center, where the staff ran a model worst-case scenario. According to Alicia's father, the demonstration showed that even if there were a concentrated off-post release, lethal doses of agent would not make it as far as the residential areas of Hermiston. The "Eyes on America" broadcast showed a map outlining the area at risk from an accident at the depot, reflected by a circle extending a 195-mile radius from the depot. The edge came within reach of Portland and Spokane, and close to Seattle and Boise.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who had claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A year later on this date, the cornerstone was laid.)

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1983, composer-pianist Eubie Blake, who wrote such songs as "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "Memories of You," died in Brook-

lyn, New York, five days after turning 100.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2000, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in Santa Rosa, California, at age 77.

In 2002, former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic went on trial in The Hague, accused of war crimes (he died in 2006 before the trial could conclude).

In 2006, figure skater Michelle Kwan effectively retired from competition as she withdrew from the Turin Olympics due to injury (she was replaced on the U.S. team by Emily Hughes). Snowboarder Shaun White beat American teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal.

In 2019, Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin

"El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted in New York of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation; a jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure had deliberated for six days. (Guzman is serving a life sentence at the federal supermax prison facility in Florence, Colorado.)

In 2020, Holland America Line said a cruise ship, the MS Westerdam, which had been barred from docking by four governments because of fears of the coronavirus, would arrive the next day in Cambodia. In Japan, officials confirmed 39 new cases on a cruise ship that had been quarantined at Yokohama, bringing the total number of cases on the Diamond Princess to 174.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Costa-Gavras is 89. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 88. Actor Joe Don Baker

is 86. Author Judy Blume is 84. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 80. Country singer Moe Bandy is 78. Actor Maud Adams is 77. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 76. Actor Michael Ironside is 72. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 72. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 70. Actor Joanna Kerns is 69. Actor Zach Grenier is 68. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 66. Actor John Michael Higgins is 59. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 58. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh is 57. Actor Christine Elise is 57. Actor Josh Brodin is 54. Singer Chynna Phillips is 54. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 52. Actor Jesse Spencer is 43. Rapper Gucci Mane is 42. Actor Sarah Lancaster is 42. Actor Christina Ricci is 42. Actor Jennifer Stone is 29. Actors Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are 12.

7 LITTLE WORDS puzzle with clues and solutions grid. Clues include '1 time off spent at home (10)', '2 easily reshaped (7)', etc. Solutions grid contains words like BOR, POR, GH, GUS, TI, etc.

WORD Roundup puzzle with a grid of letters and clues like 'Six weather adjectives ending with Y', 'Four six-letter mammals', etc.

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