

Too much togetherness tires hen-pecked man's patience

DEAR ABBY: Since the coronavirus lockdown began, my wife and I have been cooped up together all day, every day. Though we have lived together for 35 years, she's now discovering that I "don't cook vegetables correctly." (It goes without saying that I'm no longer allowed to prepare the entrees.)



I don't sort the trash the way she thinks it should be, so I can't take out the garbage without her first inspecting it. Not only do I not wash the dishes properly, I don't even wash my face right. Thus far the only thing I seem to

be able to do is go to the restroom without her supervision, but I lock the door now just in case she decides to kibitz.

DEAR ABBY

I realize that during this tense time, people feel a loss of control over their own lives and try to compensate however they can. I'm able to hang on to my patience almost all the time, but occasionally I want to either scream at her or look for an apartment of my own. Do you have any advice for either or both of us?

— KEEPING CALM IN THE WEST

DEAR KEEPING CALM: You are far from the only spouse who is experiencing this. Your comment about your wife's hypervigilance and fault-finding being her way of coping with her anxieties is perceptive. If you haven't talked with her (calmly) about how her behavior is affecting you, please do it before you explode.

Being cooped up together all day, every day, isn't healthy for either of you. You both should be getting out separately for at least 30 minutes of walking (60 could be even better) and sunlight every day. The exercise and change of scenery would not only be healthy, but may lower both of your stress levels. However, if

that isn't sufficient, the two of you should discuss what's going on with her physician.

DEAR ABBY: I am instinctively tight-fisted with money. It's also necessary because my brother and I have been in business for ourselves for only a few years, and we are just now starting to turn a decent profit. My girlfriend earns a good living as a nurse. She is pretty thrifty, but not when it comes to food.

My question is, how much of the bill should I be expected to foot for an expensive dinner I didn't want to go out to, or an overpriced breakfast burrito from some snobby food truck? If I don't look enthusiastic about the

prospect of going to one of these places, she says not to worry because she'll pay for it, which makes me feel insecure. Any tips on how to handle this?

— PROUD GUY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR PROUD GUY: Yes. You appear to be an old-fashioned guy who is dating a contemporary woman. Accept her generosity and quit tying your masculinity to how she chooses to spend her own hard-earned money. That said, if you are thinking of marrying her, it would be in both your interests to have premarital counseling to ensure that disagreements about money don't cause serious problems in your marriage.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Feisty Tasmanian devils roaming mainland Australian again

By Victoria Milko
Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Tasmanian devils, the carnivorous marsupials whose feisty, frenzied eating habits won the animals cartoon fame, have returned to mainland Australia for the first time in some 3,000 years.

"Seeing those devils released into a wild landscape — it's a really emotional moment," said Liz Gabriel, director of conservation group Aussie Ark, which led the release effort in partnership with other conservation groups.

The 11 most recently released devils began exploring their new home once they were freed from round white cages at the nearly 1,000-acre Barrington Tops wildlife refuge in New South Wales state, about 120 miles north of Sydney.

Tasmanian devils, which were once called *Sarcophilus satanicus* or "Satanic flesh-lover," went extinct in mainland Australia before the arrival of Europeans. Scientists believe the introduction of carnivorous dingoes, a surge in the indigenous human population and a devastating dry season caused by a prolonged El Nino contributed to the devils' migration to present-day Tasmania, said University of Tasmania ecologist Menna Jones.

"I think any one of those three factors alone probably wouldn't have caused extinction — but the three of them together likely



AP Photo/Rob Griffith, File

In this Dec. 21, 2012, photo, Big John the Tasmanian devil growls from the confines of his tree house as he makes his first appearance at the Wild Life Sydney Zoo in Sydney, Australia. Conservation groups recently released some cancer-free devils in a wildlife refuge on the mainland.

caused the devil to become extinct on the mainland," she said.

Devils have been protected in Australia since 1941, and conservationists have worked to bolster their populations for years, citing their importance as top predators that can suppress invasive species — like foxes and feral cats — and in turn protect smaller species and biodiversity.

One of the biggest blows to conservation efforts came in the 1990s when a communicable cancer called devil facial tumor disease — which passes between devils through their bites while mating and causes large tumors that prevent them from eating — reduced the population from some 140,000 to as few as 20,000.

In response, researchers established an insurance population of cancer-free

devils in wild-type enclosures in Australia's island state of Tasmania. But the releases in July and September are the first time the squat mammals — all of which have tested negative for the contagious cancer — have been released on the mainland in a protected wild landscape.

Gabriel said Aussie Ark aims for devils eventually to live in non-protected areas in mainland Australia, with the hope the devils will contribute to keeping cat and fox populations under control.

Some experts question whether the introduction would have that hoped-for level of impact.

Nick Mooney, an Australia conservationist who has worked with Tasmanian devils for some 40 years, said feral felines are likely to return to hunting for a food source rather than



Cristian Prieto/WildArk via AP

Members of a conservation group release Tasmanian devils into the wild at Barrington Tops, New South Wales state, Australia, on Sept. 10, 2020. Tasmanian devils, the carnivorous marsupials whose feisty, frenzied eating habits won the animals cartoon fame, returned to mainland Australia for the first time in some 3,000 years.

relying on carrion in competition with the devils.

"There is an argument that by putting devils into a situation where you stop the other carnivores scavenging is that those animals, like cats and foxes, will simply start hunting. You could actually make a conservation problem where it didn't exist before," said Mooney.

There's also a matter of reputation. While devils tend to feed on small mammals they're also known to eat the carcasses of cattle and sheep, potentially making them a nuisance to farmers.

"When you do big interventions like this, there needs to be buy-in from the community, particularly those who are affected in the community," said Jones. "There needs to be consultation."

For now, the devils released this year and those expected to be

released in coming years won't go into the wild just yet. Instead they will receive supplementary feedings and be monitored by remote cameras, with some devils tagged with GPS trackers to learn more about how they adjust in their new environment, said Gabriel.

"We dream of many more sanctuaries with devils in them and really growing the numbers of the species to protect that species, but also the animals in the environment around them," she said. "This is just the beginning."

OKC jailers face cruelty charge for playing 'Baby Shark' on loop

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two former detention officers and their supervisor were charged Monday,

Oct. 5, after an investigation found inmates at the Oklahoma County jail were forced to listen to the popular children's song "Baby Shark" on a loop at loud volumes for extended periods of time.

At least four inmates were subjected to the "inhuman" discipline in an attorney visitation room of the jail last November and December, according to the charge. The inmates were forced to stand the entire time, hands cuffed behind them and secured to the wall, the investigation found.

Charged were Gregory Cornell Butler Jr., 21, of Edmond; Christian Charles Miles, 21, of Oklahoma City; and Christopher Raymond Hendershott, 50, of Wellston.

District Attorney David Prater charged them with misdemeanor counts of cruelty to a prisoner and conspiracy.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A few showers	A passing shower or two	Mostly cloudy, a shower	Cloudy with a few showers	A shower possible
Baker City	36	57 42	61 34	62 37	64 32
La Grande	40	54 44	60 38	58 45	59 43
Enterprise	35	49 40	58 36	58 42	55 41
Comfort Index™	0	3	7	7	9

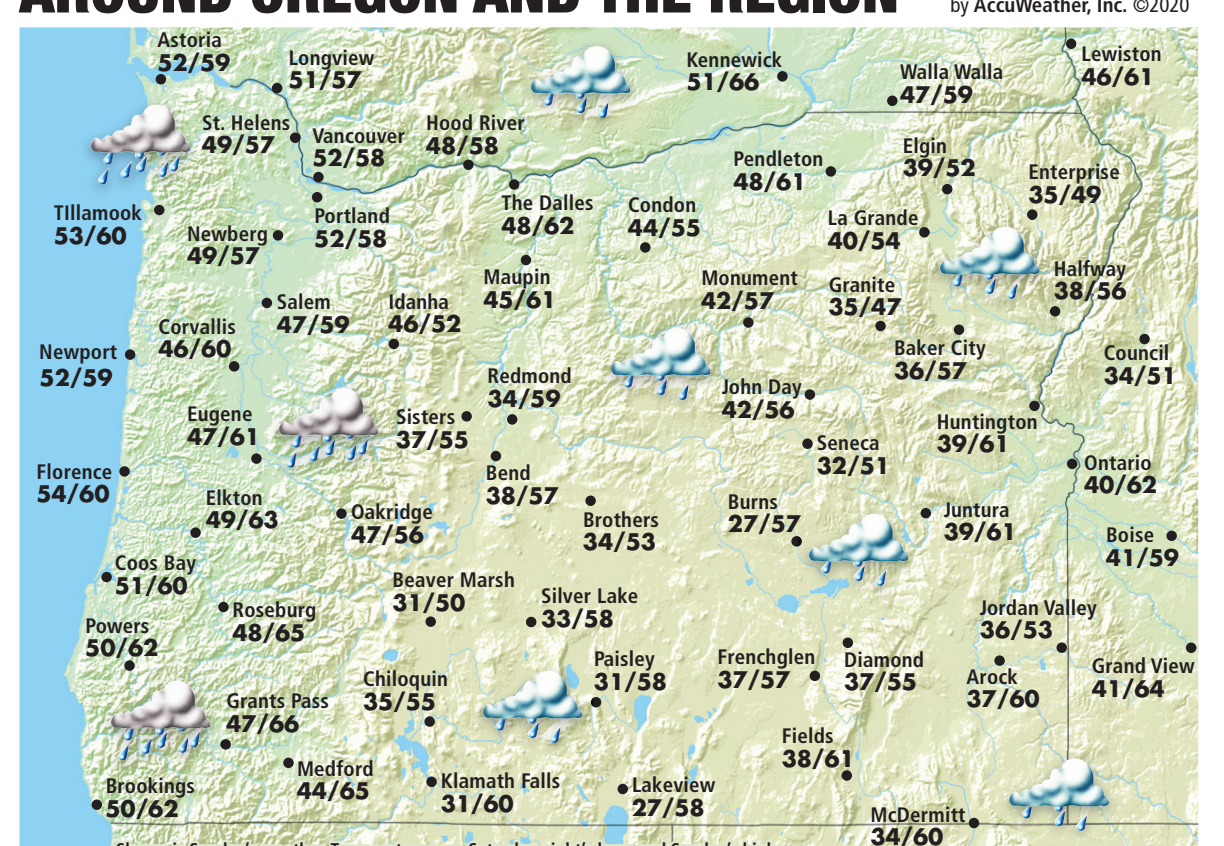
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC		THURSDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City 81° La Grande 80° Elgin 81°	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 104° Ocotillo Wells, Calif. Low: 14° Walden, Colo. Wettest: 7.61" Baton Rouge, La.
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Thursday 0.00 Month to date 0.00 Normal month to date 0.14 Year to date 2.99 Normal year to date 7.78	OREGON	High: 84° Rome Low: 21° Lakeview Wettest: 0.01" Florence

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	SW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.3
Evapotranspiration	0.07
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	21% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	41% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	41% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	13% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	5% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grand Ronde at Troy	726 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	16 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	45 cfs
Minam River at Minam	62 cfs
Powder River near Richland	20 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY	
Astoria	52/59	ANTHONY LAKES	A p.m. shower
Longview	51/57	34	28
St. Helens	49/57	MT. EMILY REC.	A shower or two
Vancouver	52/58	43	37
Hood River	48/58	EAGLE CAP WILD.	A stray shower
Portland	52/58	38	33
Maupin	45/61	WALLOWA LAKE	A shower or two
Idanha	46/52	49	39
Corvallis	47/59	THIEF VALLEY RES.	A stray shower
Salem	47/59	57	42
Idanha	46/52	PHILLIPS LAKE	Rain and drizzle
Brookings	50/62	49	42
Coos Bay	51/60	BROWNLEE RES.	A stray shower
Brookings	50/62	56	42
Brookings	50/62	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A shower or two
Brookings	50/62	48	40
Brookings	50/62	MCKAY RESERVOIR	Rain and drizzle
Brookings	50/62	60	50
Brookings	50/62	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	A shower or two
Brookings	50/62	54	44