

Couple's future is threatened by fiancée's grief, depression

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée and I have been together for four years. I have lost A LOT of people in my life, so I am used to death. She, on the other hand, didn't experience it until two years ago, when she lost her grandfather. The next year, her mother passed, and last year we lost a child — her oldest — my stepson.



DEAR ABBY

I have begun to wonder how it would affect me, her and the kids if I left. I'm not equipped to deal with someone else's depression on top of my own. I have been trying, but I'm finding myself getting more and more angry. What should I do?

— **TORN IN THE EAST**

DEAR TORN: You mentioned that you, too, suffer from depression. Are you receiving treatment for it? If you are seeing a psychologist (and being medicated), discuss this with the person who is working with you. You may need a change in your medication. It isn't surprising that with

so much loss all at once in her life, your fiancée is grieving and depressed. Frankly, while I might suggest she join a support group for help in coping with the loss of her child, she may also need help from a licensed mental health professional.

Although you are tempted, I don't think now is the time to abandon your fiancée and her children. Once she is stabilized, you may not want to leave at all.

DEAR ABBY: My 13-, almost 14-year-old daughter, "Gabbi," is a shining star of responsibility and being self-driven. She also likes nice things.

Gabbi has been babysitting for my sister for several months and has saved almost every penny,

which amounts to hundreds of dollars. I'm proud of her discipline. However, I think she should start buying some of her "frivolous wants" herself.

I'm willing to buy her and my other children gifts when I can and on special occasions on my single income, but Gabbi often asks me for \$10 here and \$10 there. Because it's more than I can afford, I have to say no and see her silent disappointment. I know the simple answer is to not give in, but I want my daughter to learn that it's OK to spend a little on herself here and there. I'm not sure what words to use to convince her.

Can you help?
— **MOM ON A BUDGET**

DEAR MOM: Your daughter is old enough for an honest conversation with her mom. Start by telling her how proud of her you are that she has shown how disciplined and responsible she is because those traits will serve her well in years to come.

Tell her you feel bad about disappointing her when you refuse her requests, but now that she's nearly 14, she's mature enough to understand you are the sole wage earner, money is tight and her frequent requests put a strain on the budget. Then point out that she has saved quite a bit of income from her babysitting, and she should direct some of it toward the items she's asking you for.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Baby bottle craze sweeps Gulf Arab states, sparks backlash

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Cafes across several Gulf Arab states started selling coffee and other cold drinks in baby bottles this month, kicking off a new trend that has elicited excitement, confusion — and backlash.

The fad began at Einstein Cafe, a slick dessert chain with branches across the region, from Dubai to Kuwait to Bahrain. Instead of ordinary paper cups, the cafe, inspired by pictures of trendy-looking bottles shared on social media, decided to serve its thick milky drinks in plastic baby bottles.

Although the franchise was no newcomer to baby-themed products — a milkshake with cereal, the rice cereal for infants, is a long-standing bestseller — the unprecedented fervor over the feeding bottles came as a bit of a shock.

"Everyone wanted to buy it, people called all day, telling us they're coming with their friends, they're coming with their father and mother," Younes Molla, CEO of the Einstein franchise in the United Arab Emirates, told The Associated Press this week. "After so many months with the pandemic, with all the difficulties, people took photos, they had fun, they remembered their childhood."

Lines clogged Einstein stores across the Gulf. People of all ages streamed onto sidewalks, waiting for their chance to suck coffee and juice from a plastic bottle. Some patrons even brought their own baby bottles to other cafes, pleading with bewildered baristas to fill them up.

Pictures of baby bottles filled with colorful kaleidoscopes of drinks drew thousands of likes on Instagram and ricocheted across the pop-



Kamran Jibreili/Associated Press

A waiter poses with a tray of baby bottles that he brought out from storage, at Einstein Cafe in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 14, 2021. Cafes across several Gulf Arab states have begun selling coffee and other cold drinks in baby bottles, kicking off a new trend that has prompted excitement, confusion and backlash. The fad started at Einstein Cafe, a slick dessert chain with branches across the region. Soon, authorities from Kuwait to Dubai cracked down claiming the trend violates local traditions.

ular social media app TikTok.

Soon, however, online haters took note — the baby bottle drinkers and providers faced a barrage of nasty comments.

"People were so angry, they said horrible things, that we were an 'aeb,' to Islam and the Muslim culture," said Molla, using the Arabic term for shame or dishonor.

Last week, the anger reached the highest levels of government. Dubai authorities cracked down. Inspection teams burst into cafes where the trend had taken off and handed out fines.

"Such indiscriminate use of baby bottles is not only against local culture and traditions," read the government statement, "but the mishandling of the bottle during the filling could also contribute to the spread of COVID-19," an apparent reference to those bringing their used

bottles to other cafes.

Authorities, the statement added, had been "alerted to the negative practice and its risks by social media users."

Backlash also came from Kuwait, where the government temporarily shut down Einstein Cafe, and from Bahrain, where the Ministry of Commerce sent police armed with live cameras into cafes and warned all dining establishments that serving drinks in feeding bottles "violates Bahraini customs and traditions."

Oman urged citizens to report baby bottle sightings to the Consumer Protection Authority hotline. Saudi Twitter users and media personalities condemned the trend in the harshest terms, with popular news website Mujaz al-Akhbar lamenting that the kingdom's "daughters have suffered from a loss of modesty and religion."

It's not the first time that the guardians of local customs in Gulf Arab countries have focused their ire on social media phenomena. Vague laws across the region lend authorities broad power to stamp out public immorality and indecency. Emirati officers last spring, for instance, arrested a young expat for posting a video on TikTok in which he sneezed into a banknote, accusing him of "harming" the UAE's reputation and its institutions.

Cheerleader's mom accused of making 'deepfakes' of rivals

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — A Pennsylvania woman is accused of doctoring photos and video of her daughter's cheerleading rivals to try to get them kicked off the squad, officials said.

The Bucks County District Attorney's Office last week charged Raffaella Spone, 50, with three misdemeanor counts of cyber harassment of a child and related offenses.

Spone manipulated photos from social media of three girls on the Victory Vipers cheerleading squad in Chalfont to make it appear they were drinking, smoking and even nude, investigators said.

Spone also sent messages with the so-called "deepfake" pictures to the girls and suggested they kill themselves, officials said.

Spone's attorney, Robert Birch, told WPVI-TV he can't comment because he said the DA hasn't presented any evidence.

"She has absolutely denied what they're charging her with and because of the fact that this has hit the press, she has received death threats. She has had to go to the police herself, they have a report," Birch said. "Her life has been turned upside down."

The cheerleading team expressed sympathy for the families involved and said the team has a "very strict anti-bullying policy."

Oregon man arrested for shooting at hallucinations

SALEM — The police bulletin, all in uppercase, carried this headline Wednesday, March 10: MAN ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING AT HALLUCINATIONS.

Officers in Salem on March 9 responded to reports of a man shooting a gun in the backyard of a residence. The man then drove away. Officers found the vehicle and detained the man, Martin Abrego, 27, of Salem.

Police said they noticed the smell of natural gas, cordoned off the area and summoned the fire department. Gas to the home was turned off. It turned out that one of the bullets hit the home's natural gas meter. No one was hurt.

Detectives said Abrego was possibly under the influence of narcotics and was hallucinating. He believed he was being attacked and shot at the hallucinations, police said.

Abrego was taken to a hospital for treatment of his condition and was charged with unlawful use of a weapon and reckless endangering. It was unclear if he had a lawyer.

There were no drug charges. Personal-use amounts of drugs this year became legal in Oregon as of Feb. 1, when Ballot Measure 110 took effect and decriminalized possession of small amounts of heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, oxycodone and other drugs.

Those found in possession face a \$100 fine or a health assessment that could lead to addiction counseling. Addiction recovery centers must be available by Oct. 1.

— *Associated Press*

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	A couple of showers	Cooler with a few showers	Rain and snow showers	Mostly cloudy	Snow showers possible
Baker City	39	55 31	50 30	53 33	51 30
Comfort Index™	9	5	2	6	3
La Grande	38	51 31	47 31	50 31	46 32
Comfort Index™	9	4	0	4	1
Enterprise	36	45 31	41 28	47 30	44 31
Comfort Index™	9	0	0	6	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 Tuesday	53°	50°	54°
Low Tuesday	26°	28°	33°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.02
Month to date	0.13	0.06	0.10
Normal month to date	0.41	0.74	1.16
Year to date	1.08	5.09	12.03
Normal year to date	1.79	3.51	6.66

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 94°	Zapata, Texas
Low: -8°	Saranac Lake, N.Y.
Wettest: 3.48"	Meridian, Miss.

OREGON	
High: 60°	Ontario
Low: 8°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.01"	Burns

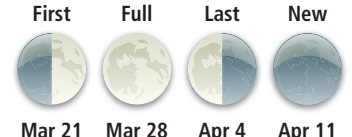
WEATHER HISTORY

On March 18, 1925, the Tri-State Tornado hit Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The deadly twister followed a mile-wide path for 219 miles, killing 695 people.

SUN & MOON

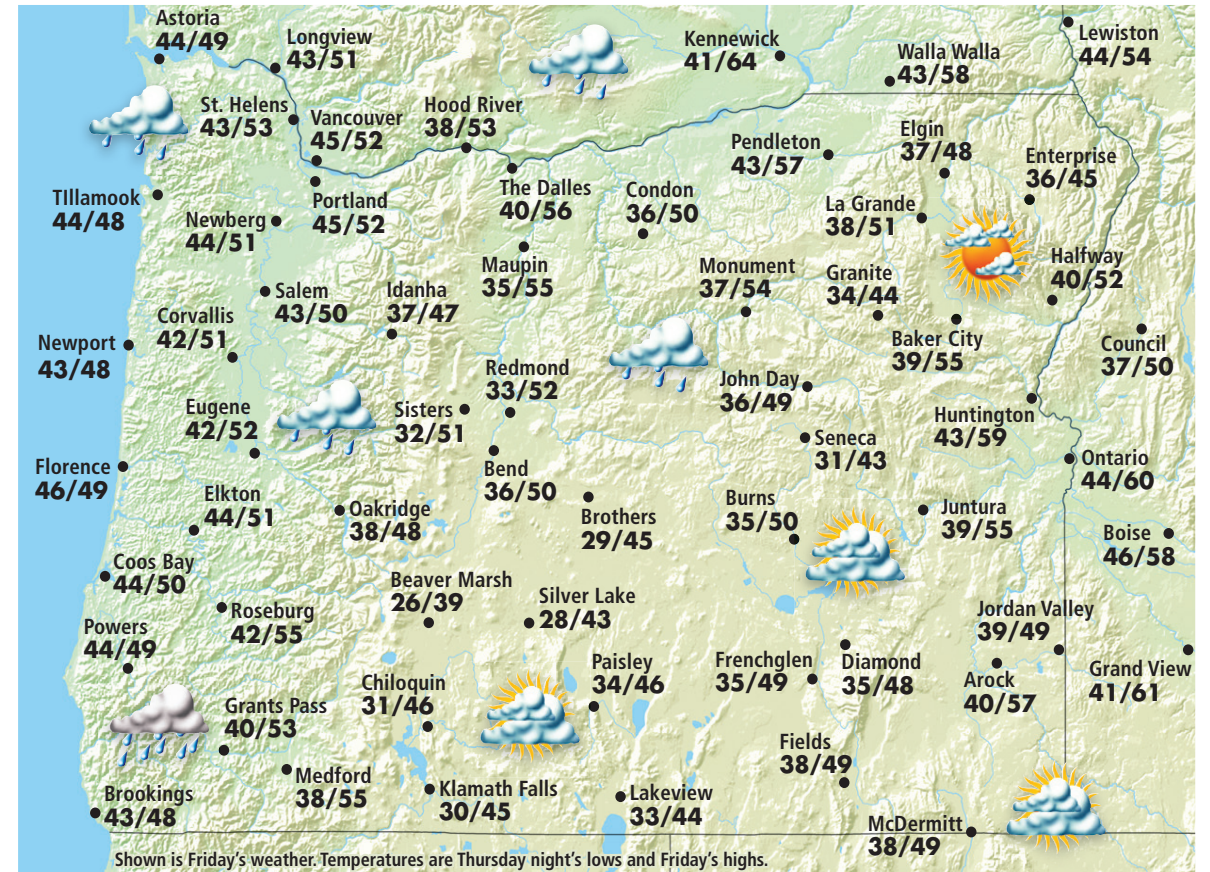
	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	6:59 a.m.	6:57 a.m.
Sunset	7:02 p.m.	7:04 p.m.
Moonrise	9:29 a.m.	9:58 a.m.
Moonset	none	12:39 a.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI.	SAT.	City	FRI.	SAT.
Astoria	49/39/r	50/39/r	Lewiston	54/38/c	55/38/r
Bend	50/31/pc	46/30/sh	Longview	51/39/r	52/36/r
Boise	58/36/r	55/32/c	Meacham	48/31/sh	46/33/r
Brookings	48/40/r	50/37/sh	Medford	55/36/sh	54/36/pc
Burns	50/30/pc	46/24/pc	Newport	48/40/r	48/37/sh
Coos Bay	50/39/r	50/38/sh	Olympia	51/37/r	53/34/r
Corvallis	51/39/r	52/35/r	Ontario	60/35/r	57/30/sh
Council	50/27/r	48/24/sf	Pasco	62/36/pc	61/37/pc
Elgin	48/31/sh	46/33/r	Pendleton	57/37/c	54/37/sh
Eugene	52/39/r	52/37/sh	Portland	52/42/r	53/40/sh
Hermiston	62/37/pc	59/40/pc	Powers	49/37/r	49/25/sh
Hood River	53/37/r	50/36/sh	Redmond	52/28/pc	49/25/sh
Imnaha	49/35/sh	47/30/sh	Roseburg	55/39/r	52/39/sh
John Day	49/30/c	44/30/pc	Salem	50/40/r	52/37/sh
Joseph	43/28/sh	39/25/sf	Spokane	53/34/sh	49/33/sh
Kennewick	64/37/pc	62/38/pc	The Dalles	56/37/r	55/38/sh
Klamath Falls	45/27/c	44/19/pc	Ukiah	49/28/c	43/25/sh
Lakeview	44/27/c	42/18/sf	Walla Walla	58/39/c	54/39/sh

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

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Snow showers	A morning shower
26 14	47 27
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
A shower; colder	Cooler
37 26	53 27
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Snow showers	Cooler
33 16	43 26
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Spotty showers	A shower; cooler
43 28	56 35
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
A shower	Spotty showers
55 31	51 31