

Mom wonders how to reveal youngest son's parentage



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful 12-year-old son, "Oliver," who was conceived during a date rape at a work party. I don't remember much about that night. When I found out I was pregnant, I hoped my husband at the time was the father. When the baby came, it was obvious he wasn't, because Oliver is a different race. (I am Caucasian, and I'm thinking Oliver may be Pacific Islander.)

We divorced when Oliver was 2, and my ex had a DNA test, which, of course, proved he was not the father. Despite the find-

ings, after I explained what happened, he offered to be Oliver's "dad" because he had bonded with him — provided he would not have to pay child support. I agreed. I have two other older sons whom he fathered.

There have been times when Oliver and his brothers have asked about his brown skin, and I have been able to dodge the question. He's getting to an age where I don't think I can hold off much longer.

I always knew the time would come when he would have to know his dad is not his biological father, but I'm not sure what to tell him. I don't think I want him to know he is a product of rape, nor do I want to throw myself under the bus and say I cheated on his

dad. That would open up questions about who his bio dad is. Please help. — **LOOKING FOR BEST WAY IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR LOOKING: I fail to understand why you would equate "rape" with "cheating." What happened wasn't your fault, and you should feel neither guilt nor shame that it happened. While I understand your desire to protect Oliver, you should tell him the truth. When you do, be sure to emphasize how much you and your ex love him and how proud you are that he is your son.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in the process of building my first house down the street from my parents. (The lot was a good deal.) Recently, my mom told me she wants a key so she and Dad can

have access to my house in case of severe weather (we live in tornado country). The layout and foundation of my house are sturdier than theirs. When I told her I didn't want anyone to have a key, she got really offended. It made me feel awful, but Abby, this is my first house, and if I have to give a key to someone when I don't want to, it defeats the purpose of having my own place.

I have been living with my parents to save up, and Mom has used guilt trips against me before. My sister and brother-in-law agree I shouldn't give in to her. I feel like a horrible daughter for refusing because she's not the type to snoop, but there have been instances when I've been in my room and she has entered

without knocking. Should I stick to my guns or am I wrong? — **DAUGHTER IN DILEMMA**

DEAR DAUGHTER: It strikes me as somewhat pushy that your mother would ask for a key to your home before it is even completed. What have your parents done during previous tornadoes? Because the house symbolizes your independence, I don't think you should hand the key over. It may make sense to have someone you trust be able to enter if you are traveling or have a pet that needs to be walked while you are working. In that event, you may change your mind and see the wisdom in offering her one.

P.S. If she abuses your trust, you can always have your locks changed.

COSTS

Continued from Page B1

People who delay care are more likely to see their health conditions worsen, and face higher costs in the long run.

"We also see really significant inequities in terms of who is impacted by health care costs and who's delaying care," Vandehey said.

For example, data from the 2019 Oregon Health Insurance Survey found that Oregonians who identify as Pacific Islanders were three times as likely as white Oregonians to delay care because of health care costs. Other marginalized communities were additionally more likely to report they were unable to pay medical bills.

Households have struggled to pay medical bills recently, incurring significant medical debt, including many who declared bankruptcy — according to studies the OHA report cited, including from the Peterson Center on Healthcare and OSPiRG.

The study also found 10% of people in Oregon reported using up all or most of their savings because of medical bills.

Health insurance and health care systems in the U.S. are complicated, according to Vandehey, and difficult to change.

"Part of it's run by the federal government, part of it's a combination of federal and state," he said. "For large insurers, actually, states are prohibited from regulating parts of the market. We can't control or manage the whole thing, but there are a number of

things that we can do as a state."

One of those things is the Sustainable Health Care Cost Growth Target Program.

While the program's recent report looks at a six-year period, future reports are intended to come out annually, with the intention of holding the big players in the health care system accountable for rising costs to patients.

"It's sort of a goal and a target that we're going to hold insurers and providers accountable to meeting year over year," Vandehey said.

The goal is to limit annual increases in health care costs statewide to 3.4% over the next several years. That's a percentage similar to the average increase in wages. State programs, like Medicaid, are already subject to a 3.4% growth target.

In comparison, health care costs rose around 6.5% a year during the period the study looked at.

Looking at the numbers, the average family's insurance premium in Oregon was just under \$20,000 in 2019, enough to buy a car. For individuals the number was around \$6,600. While the program, created by state lawmakers in 2019, is still in its early stages, Vandehey said that future steps could include talking with lawmakers about ways to mitigate the fast-increasing health care costs in the state.

"It's critical that people have access to health care that they need, and that it be affordable," Vandehey said. "And that they not have to choose between housing and food, and health care."

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

New Zealand rocket caught, dropped by helicopter

The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Using a helicopter to catch a falling rocket is such a complex task that Peter Beck likens it to a "supersonic ballet."

Rocket Lab, the company that Beck founded, partially pulled off the feat Tuesday, May 3, as it pushes to make its small Electron rockets reusable. But after briefly catching the spent rocket, a helicopter crew was quickly forced to let it go again for safety reasons, and it fell into the Pacific Ocean where it was collected by a waiting boat.

The California-based company regularly launches 59-foot rockets from the remote Mahia Peninsula in New Zealand to deliver satellites into space.

On Tuesday, the Electron rocket was launched in the morning and sent 34 satellites into orbit before the main booster section began falling to Earth. Its descent was slowed to about 33 feet per second by a parachute.

That's when the helicopter crew sprang into action, dangling a long line with a hook below the helicopter to snag the booster's parachute lines.



Rocket Lab/Contributed Photo

In this image supplied by Rocket Lab, the Electron rocket blasts off for its "There And Back Again" mission from their launch pad on the Mahia Peninsula, New Zealand, Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The California-based company regularly launches 59-foot rockets from the remote Mahia Peninsula in New Zealand to deliver satellites into space.

The crew caught the rocket but the load on the helicopter exceeded the parameters from tests and simulations, so they jettisoned it again.

The roller coaster of emotions was caught in a livestream of the event, with people at mission control cheering and clapping as the rocket was caught, only to let out a collective gasp and sigh about 20 seconds later.

Still, Beck hailed the mission as a success, saying that almost every-

thing went to plan and that the unexpected load issue was a tiny detail that would soon be fixed, a "nothing in the scheme of things."

"They got a great catch. They just didn't like the way the load was feeling," Beck said of the helicopter crew in a conference call after the launch.

He said a detailed analysis should reveal the reasons for the discrepancy in the load characteristics. He said he still hoped the company could salvage some or all of the spent rocket booster, despite it getting dunked in salt water, which they'd hoped to avoid.

Rocket Lab named its latest mission "There And Back Again" — a reference to the movie trilogy "The Hobbit," which was filmed in New Zealand.

The company described the brief midair capture at 6,500 feet by the Sikorsky S-92 helicopter as a milestone. It says making its rockets reusable will enable the company to increase the number of launches it makes and reduce costs.

Elon Musk's SpaceX company designed the first reusable orbital rocket, the Falcon 9.

WINDOWS 11 UPGRADE

Are you running an outdated Windows Operating System? We'll help you **avoid critical issues** by installing Windows 11!

SSD UPGRADE

Computer not running as fast as when it was new? Let us install **lightning-fast** solid state drive!

FAST AND RELIABLE!

Outstanding Computer Repair

Dale Bogardus
541-297-5831

Mobile Computer Repair
LET US COME TO YOU!
Call or Text - 24/7

All credit cards accepted

weather

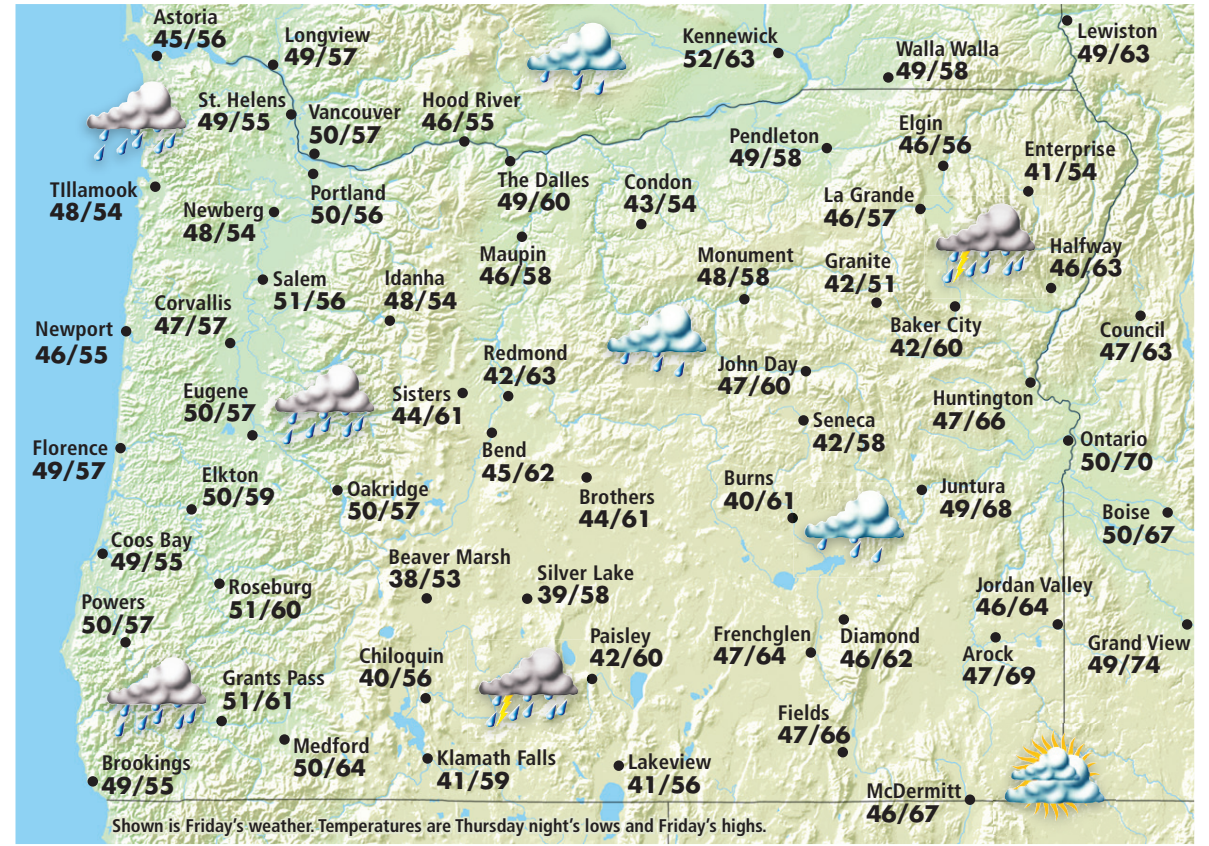
	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	A couple of showers late	Periods of rain	A little afternoon rain	Cold with a little rain	Cold with showers around
Baker City	42	60 40	52 30	44 28	47 29
Comfort Index™	3	3	1	0	0
La Grande	46	57 42	50 33	43 35	45 33
Comfort Index™	5	0	1	0	0
Enterprise	41	54 39	48 29	40 28	42 33
Comfort Index™	7	0	1	0	1

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			
High Tuesday	Baker City 59°	La Grande 59°	Elgin 66°
Low Tuesday	35°	37°	40°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	Trace	0.02
Month to date	0.30	0.16	0.18
Normal month to date	0.11	0.21	0.23
Year to date	2.23	3.94	10.05
Normal year to date	2.99	6.66	10.52

TUESDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 99°	Zapata, Texas		
Low: 15°	Bodie State Park, Calif.		
Wettest: 1.90"	Henderson, Texas		
OREGON			
High: 70°	Hermiston		
Low: 21°	Klamath Lake		
Wettest: 0.22"	Meacham		
WEATHER HISTORY			
Denver, Colo., had its greatest May snow-storm ever on May 5, 1917. By the time the storm ended, 12 inches of snow had accumulated.			
SUN & MOON			
	THU.	FRI.	
Sunrise	5:35 a.m.	5:34 a.m.	
Sunset	8:04 p.m.	8:05 p.m.	
Moonrise	8:32 a.m.	9:26 a.m.	
Moonset	12:21 a.m.	1:11 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
	First	Full	Last
	May 8	May 15	May 22
	May 30		

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES					
City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	56/45/r	52/40/r	Lewiston	63/48/r	57/42/c
Bend	62/40/r	54/31/c	Longview	57/46/r	54/41/r
Boise	67/44/pc	56/36/c	Meacham	55/43/r	46/33/r
Brookings	55/44/r	53/42/sh	Newport	64/47/r	57/39/r
Burns	61/37/r	51/29/c	Medford	55/44/r	51/38/r
Coos Bay	55/44/r	55/42/r	Olympia	55/43/r	53/38/r
Corvallis	57/45/r	53/39/r	Ontario	70/48/r	61/41/c
Council	63/43/r	54/36/sh	Pasco	64/50/sh	62/43/pc
Elgin	56/41/r	47/33/r	Pendleton	58/44/r	53/39/sh
Eugene	57/47/r	54/40/r	Portland	56/48/r	55/42/r
Hermiston	61/48/r	60/41/c	Powers	57/47/r	53/41/sh
Hood River	55/47/r	54/43/r	Redmond	63/39/r	54/29/c
Imnaha	62/45/r	51/37/r	Roseburg	60/48/r	53/39/sh
John Day	60/38/r	48/30/r	Salem	56/46/r	54/40/r
Joseph	54/36/r	47/29/r	Spokane	57/40/c	53/35/c
Kennewick	63/51/sh	63/42/pc	The Dalles	60/50/r	59/43/sh
Klamath Falls	59/37/r	49/29/c	Ukiah	53/38/r	43/29/r
Lakeview	56/35/c	51/27/c	Walla Walla	58/46/r	54/38/sh

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY			
ANTHONY LAKES	Occasional rain	34	24
PHILLIPS LAKE	A touch of rain	53	37
MT. EMILY REC.	Chilly with rain	43	33
BROWNLEE RES.	A touch of rain	64	46
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A little rain	40	29
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Periods of rain	49	35
WALLOWA LAKE	Periods of rain	54	36
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Periods of rain	57	44
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A bit of rain	60	40
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Periods of rain	57	42

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