

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I've become involved with a woman I've been friends with for some years. We became close over the course of 2020, and more recently have soft-launched dating (although she doesn't yet feel comfortable labeling it).

Not long ago, she expressed great disappointment because of my messiness when I last visited her. I had left an empty coffee cup on her car floor, my shoes in the middle of her kitchen and knocked some pillows off of the couch, among other things. I know her criticisms are fair, but they were also over the top.

I believe this is a trait I can fix, and I told her I would, but now she wants some space. She said she isn't sure she can become romantic with a messy person who "doesn't respect her space." While I understand where she's coming from, I'm afraid I won't have a chance to prove myself. We spoke a little after the incident, but I have tried to honor her request.

Do you have any advice about how to approach the situation? It would be sad if we parted ways after our first real challenge. I think it may be important to note that, in the past, she has dated men who weren't respectful to her at all.

— *Mr. Messy in Pennsylvania*

**Dear Mr. Messy:** A serious — but nonconfrontational — conversation with this woman is in order. Does she have a touch of OCD? Or could she be reluctant to become further involved for some other reason — such as a fear of intimacy or her

bad luck with prior men in her life? You need to ask what has caused your otherwise happy relationship to go so far off track, let her know you are willing to work on your "messiness," and ask her to lay her cards on the table about what else may be bothering her.

**Dear Abby:** My wife and I have a beautiful 8-year-old daughter. She was a donor egg baby, as we had had three miscarriages and were unable to bring a baby to term. My question is, when is the right time to tell our daughter that her mother is not her birth mother? I was bullied extensively as a kid, and don't want this to become a topic to haunt the rest of her school days.

— *Doting Dad*

**Dear Dad:** I'm sorry you were bullied as a child, and I'm glad you asked this question. If your wife carried your daughter to term, she IS the child's birth mother. She just needed a little "extra help" in the form of a donated egg.

Having reached the age of 8, your daughter is at an age when school curriculum may begin covering reproduction. After she has learned the basics, consider slowly starting to educate her about the various pathways to parenthood. Then, when she is a little older, provide more details about the miracle of her birth. It is important that your child know she can always get honest answers from both of her parents, and at some point, the donor's medical history may be something she needs to know about.

## Wheat

## Continued from A7

Rauch said local farmers over the age of 55 remember the dry spell of 1977 as one of the worst the region has faced. But this year seems worse to Rauch. The ongoing drought, declining crop conditions and spiking prices are placing Rauch in a bind with contracts he has yet to fill.

"You may have to go into the market, with how short you are, and buy even more expensive wheat to fill what you thought were good prices, which are not that great now," he said.

Record-breaking drought conditions have consumed much of Eastern Oregon. Wheat industry experts say meager precipitation stretching back through the spring of 2020, coupled with high overall temperatures, have all but assured a challenging year for farmers.

"It's an exceptionally dry year," said Larry Lutcher, an extension agronomist for Oregon State University based out of Morrow County, adding, "It's too late for most of the wheat



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

**A weather vane sits on the side of a combine harvester as it loads a bank-out wagon at Starvation Farms near Lexington.**

in Morrow County."

Luther said the crop-year precipitation in Morrow County ranges from roughly 4 to 6 inches — about half of the region's long-term average. And a late-season rain would do little to help now, he said.

"Most folks are disappointed that our yield potential will be much less than average," Lutcher said.

The drought stretches across Eastern Oregon. Conditions in Umatilla County range from

extreme drought in the west to moderate in the east, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. More than three-fourths of Morrow County is experiencing extreme drought.

"For us, things aren't as bad as other drier areas," said Emery Gentry, Umatilla County president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, who farms on the foothills of the Blue Mountains near Weston. "But it's definitely a poorer year for us too. Typically we rely on rains

## Workers

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Intel's layoffs skewed older: In 2016, workers over 40 were more than twice as likely to lose their jobs than their younger colleagues, and workers over 60 were eight times more likely to have been laid off than those under 30.

Dozens of Intel employees filed complaints with state and federal agencies after the cuts,

citing The Oregonian's analysis. But it has taken several years for authorities to investigate.

The Oregonian reported in February that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission had concluded that Intel discriminated against eight older workers in the 2015 layoffs, but it has yet to announce any resolution of penalties. Complaints related to the 2016 layoffs apparently remain open with the agency.

## Infrastructure

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The deal was struck after months of partisan rancor that has consumed Washington while Biden has insisted that something could be done despite skepticism from many in his own party. Led by Republican Portman of Ohio and Democrat Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, the group included some of the more independent lawmakers in the Senate, some known for bucking their parties.

"You know there are many who say bipartisanship is dead in Washington," said Sinema, "We can use bipartisanship to solve these challenges."

And Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said, "It sends an important message to the world as well that America can function, can get things done."

The proposal includes both new and existing spending and highlights the struggle lawmakers faced in coming up with ways to pay for it.

The investments include \$109 billion on roads and highways, \$15 billion on electric vehicle infrastructure and transit systems and \$65 billion toward broadband, among other expenditures on airports, drinking water systems and re-

siliency efforts to tackle climate change.

Rather than Biden's proposed corporate tax hike that Republicans oppose or the gas-tax increase that the president rejected, funds will be tapped from a range of sources — without a full tally yet, according to the White House document.

Money will come from COVID-19 relief funds approved in 2020 but not yet spent, as well as untapped unemployment insurance funds that Democrats have been hesitant to poach. Other revenue is expected by going harder after tax cheats by beefing up Internal Revenue Service enforcement.

The rest is a hodge-podge of asset sales and accounting tools, including funds coming from 5G telecommunication spectrum lease sales, strategic petroleum reserve and an expectation that the sweeping investment will generate economic growth — what the White House calls the "macro-economic impact of infrastructure investment."

The senators from both parties stressed that the deal will create jobs for the economy, a belief that clearly transcended the partisan interests and created a framework for the deal.

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in April and May. And it's June. And the amount of rain we got is just dismal compared to what we would normally expect?"

The month of March was the sixth driest on record in Pendleton and the second driest in Hermiston. In April, conditions hardly improved, with Pendleton reporting the seventh driest month on record and Hermiston the third driest, according to the National Weather Service in Pendleton.

A May 2021 climate summary from the National Weather Service in Pendleton said many stations throughout Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington reported conditions from March through May that ranked in the top 10 driest three-month periods on record, and some stations reported the driest three-month period on record.

Gov. Kate Brown already declared a state of drought emergency in Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Harney, Malheur, Sherman, Wallowa, Lake, Jackson and Klamath counties. In April, Umatilla County declared a drought and asked Brown to follow suit.

That's a different standard than required to show discrimination on the basis of sex, race or disability.

Backers say Wednesday's legislation would put older workers on the same footing as other protected classes.

In the Senate, Democrats Bob Casey and Patrick Leahy, and Republicans Chuck Grassley and Susan Collins, are taking the lead in support of the bill.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Thomas Alva Bivens Jr.** of La Pine, OR  
Nov 22, 1966 - June 18, 2021

**Arrangements:** Baird Memorial Chapel of La Pine is honored to serve the Bivens family. Please visit our website, [www.bairdfh.com](http://www.bairdfh.com), to share condolences and sign the online guestbook.

**Beatrice J. O'Rourke** of Bend, OR  
Oct 27, 1945 - June 20, 2021

**Arrangements:** Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
**Services:** At her request, there will be no services

**Margaret Selders Storkel** of Bend, OR  
June 17, 2021

**Services:** A memorial service will be held at Prineville Christian Church at 1685 SE Linn Blvd., Prineville, on Friday, June 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. *Contributions may be made to:* Humane Society of the Ochocos.

## OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines  
541-385-5809  
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm  
Email: [obits@bendbulletin.com](mailto:obits@bendbulletin.com)

## OBITUARY



**Les C. Simonson II**  
November 5, 1954  
- June 7, 2021

Les C. Simonson II, age 66, passed away unexpectedly on June 7, 2021 in West Glacier, Montana. Les was born on November 5, 1954 in Ventura, California to his parents, Les C. Simonson, Sr. and Loretta Lois Simonson, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 46 years Debra, sons, Lester Simonson III (Alisha), Cody Simonson, grandson Del, and his sister Tammi (Mark). He also leaves behind his sister-in-law Margaret Berg, numerous nieces, nephews, uncles, and cousins.

Les and Debra were married in Thousand Oaks, CA on November 15, 1975. Shortly after that, they moved to Humboldt County, CA. Les' job with Reid & Wright Lumber took them to Boulder, CO and eventually to Bend, OR. In 2009 Les and Debra moved to Kailua Kona, HI where he became a member of the Kona Sunrise Rotary Club. He loved being a Rotarian and was well known for his participation in various community projects. In 2017, they retired and began traveling the country in their fifth-wheel with their two dogs Otis and Kayla. Their travels took them to every state (except Alaska) and it was truly the trip of a lifetime. They were grateful everyday for the amazing journey they were able to experience and for the people they met.

Les's greatest joy was his family. He adored his wife, loved his boys, daughter-in-law Alisha, and his amazing grandson Del. His accomplishments were many, but he should be known foremost as someone who was kind, humble, loyal, sincere, honest, and genuine.

Donations to Doernbecher's Children's Hospital Pediatric Oncology Department will be accepted through a Go Fund Me page. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Bend, OR and Kailua Kona, HI. GoFundMe for Doernbecher Children's Hospital: <https://gofund.me/c9ce8e8d>