

Happily unmarried couple reaches impasse over kids

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for more than a decade. We're nearly 30 now. We are happy not being married, and we both agreed early in our relationship that we would not have kids. All of a sudden, my boyfriend has decided he wants children. I said maybe in the future, but he feels we're running out of time. I still don't want kids, and it's for selfish reasons. I enjoy traveling, having time to myself and just the two of us, peace and quiet, being able to do what I want when I want without having to worry about kids. Is that so wrong? Where do we go from here?



DEAR ABBY

In their case, it's the truth. **DEAR ABBY:** I recently received an email from the grade school-aged son of a close friend, which included a link requesting funding to support his school sports program. My friend told me to expect such an email. I'm not certain how to respond, as I always encouraged my children to communicate face-to-face when soliciting funds for their school programs, but that was years ago, and I realize this is a new era. It just seems so impersonal to ask for money electronically, especially when I barely know the young man. Are my expectations wrong? How would you handle this?

— **CHECKS IN THE E-MAIL**
DEAR CHECKS IN: Despite how the request was made, if you want to support the program, do so. If not, then don't. Personally, I would ignore the email, and if I was asked about it, I would politely decline.

DEAR ABBY: In the past three weeks or so, a man has placed a flower blossom in a small cup on the edge of my patio. This has happened 18 times. The flowers are, seemingly, from surrounding yards. I live in a golfing community, and many golfers pass by daily. Once, he left a golf ball as well.

As I was looking out one day, I saw a man wearing a red shirt, tan cap and shorts. His cap was pulled low, so I couldn't see his face. He looked to be middle-aged, and he walked away quickly. He has never tried to make contact with me. My partner is not happy about this, and I'm afraid if he catches the man in action, he may cause a scene. I don't know if I should be flattered or afraid. Also, the man might be shocked to learn that I'm 85. What to do, Abby?

— **SECRETLY ADMIRER IN FLORIDA**
DEAR ADMIRER: Here's what I'd do. I would accept the compliment, but I would also leave a note on the edge of the patio addressed to "Secret Admirer." In it I would say that I'm 85 years old and, while flattered, I'm not available — so please stop leaving "gifts" on my patio.

— **AT ODDS IN MONTANA**
DEAR AT ODDS: After 10-plus years, "the future" has arrived. It appears you and your boyfriend have reached a large fork in the road. From here you either go your separate ways or agree to relationship counseling to see if there may be a way to bridge this gap.

DEAR ABBY: For the last 25 years, we have gone on several weekend getaways with another couple. They are now suggesting a one-week vacation together. The issue is, they constantly either talk to or text their children while we are with them. They call to tell them the weather, where we're eating, get updates on their various sporting events, etc.

We also have children and grandchildren, but we wait until we return home to reconnect and hear about their weekend and tell about ours. We love our kids, but we don't need to be constantly connected.

Except for us, this couple's entire social life appears to revolve around their children's lives, and it is pretty much all they talk about. We're not sure we can tolerate this for an entire week. We don't want to lose these friends, but don't know how to decline a week of this. Please advise.

— **VACATION FROM THE VACATION**
DEAR VACATION: Constantly texting and calling in the presence of others is rude. Because you are hesitant to call them on it, try this: Unless they know you take week-long vacations with other friends, tell them you prefer shorter visits with other couples.

ROCKET DEATH

Flat-earth believer dies in rocket crash

The Associated Press

BARSTOW, Calif. — A California man who said he wanted to fly to the edge of outer space to see if the world is round has died after his home-built rocket blasted off into the desert sky and plunged back to earth.

"Mad" Mike Hughes was killed on Saturday afternoon after his rocket crashed on private property near Barstow, California.

Waldo Stakes, a colleague who was at the rocket launch, said Hughes, 64, was killed.

The Science Channel said on Twitter it had been chronicling Hughes' journey and that "thoughts & prayers go out to his family & friends during this difficult time."

"It was always his dream to do this launch," the Twitter message said.

Hughes also was a limousine driver, who held the Guinness world record for "longest limousine ramp jump," for jumping 103 feet in a Lincoln Town Car stretch limousine, at a speedway in 2002.

A video on TMZ.com showed the rocket taking off, with what appears to be a parachute tearing off during the launch. The steam-powered rocket streaks upward, then takes around 10 seconds to fall straight back to earth. Shrieks can be heard as the rocket plows into the desert.

Freelance journalist Justin Chapman, who was



Mercedes Blackehart/The Associated Press

"Mad" Mike Hughes rocket takes off, with what appears to be a parachute tearing off during its launch near Barstow, Calif., on Saturday. Hughes, a California man who said he wanted to fly to the edge of outer space to see if the world is flat or round has died after his home-built rocket blasted off into the desert sky and plunged back to earth. "Mad" Mike Hughes, 64, was killed on Saturday after his rocket crashed.

at the scene, said the rocket appeared to rub against the launch apparatus, which might have caused the mishap with the parachute.

In March 2018, Hughes propelled himself about 1,875 feet into the air. He deployed one parachute and then a second one but still had a hard landing in the Mojave Desert in California, and injured his back.

"This thing wants to kill you 10 different ways," Hughes said after that launch. "This thing will kill you in a heartbeat."

He said in a video that his goal was to eventually fly to the edge of outer space to determine for himself whether

the world is round. "I don't want to take anyone else's word for it," he said in the video, posted on the BBC News website. "I don't know if the world is flat or round."

In another video posted on his YouTube site, Hughes said he also wanted "to convince people they can do things that are extraordinary with their lives."

"My story really is incredible," Hughes once told The Associated Press. "It's got a bunch of story lines — the garage-built thing. I'm an older guy. It's out in the middle of nowhere, plus the Flat Earth. The problem is it brings out all the nuts also."

weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Showers possible
Baker City	24	50	55	57	53
Comfort Index™	5	7	7	7	5
La Grande	31	48	53	53	47
Comfort Index™	5	5	7	7	5
Enterprise	28	46	52	55	46
Comfort Index™	5	5	8	8	5

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.

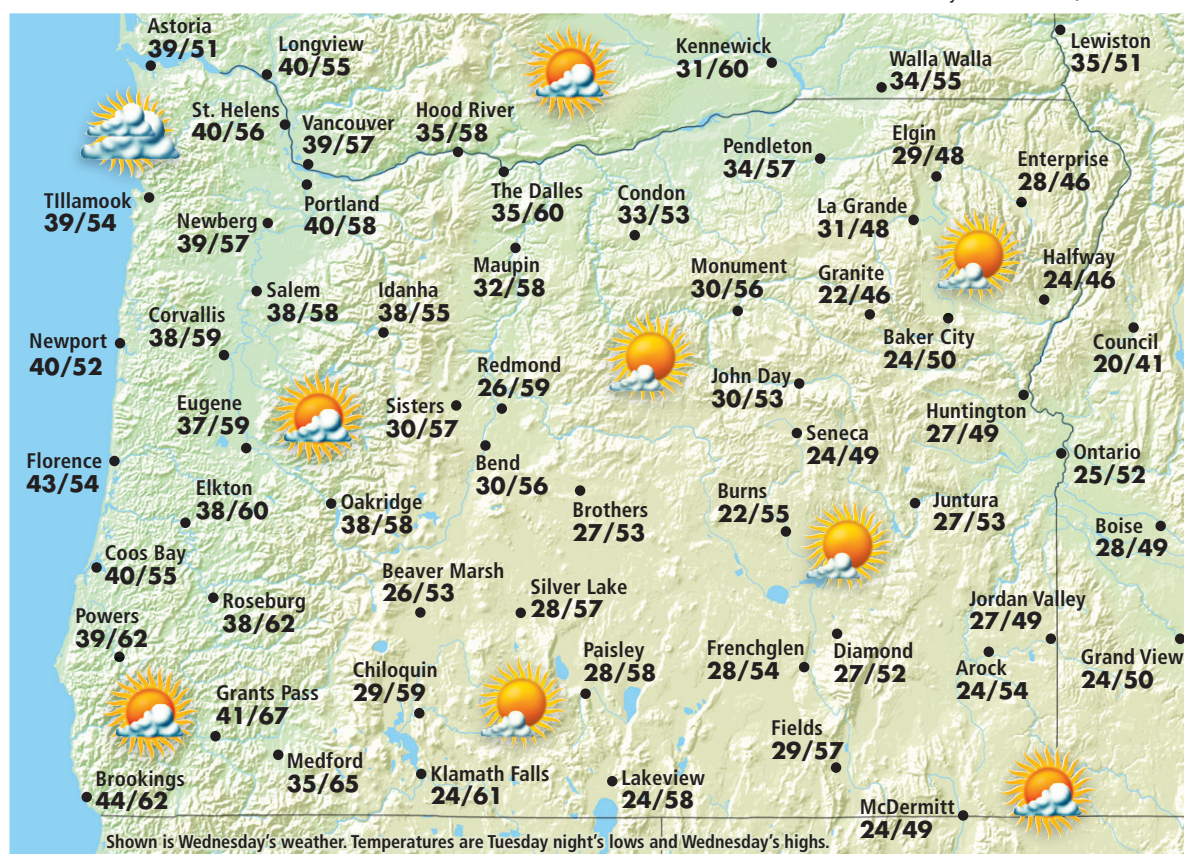
ALMANAC		SUNDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City La Grande Elgin	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High Sunday	58° 53° 50°	High: 85°	Zapata, Texas
Low Sunday	23° 24° 26°	Low: -17°	Boulder, Wyo.
PRECIPITATION (inches)		Wettest: 2.09"	Lyons, Kan.
Sunday	0.01 0.06 0.00	OREGON	
Month to date	0.33 2.97 8.20	High: 64°	Hermiston
Normal month to date	0.47 0.92 1.91	Low: 18°	Lakeview
Year to date	0.61 4.52 16.79	Wettest: 0.50"	Meacham
Normal year to date	1.27 2.55 5.08		

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	S at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	8.5
Evapotranspiration	0.05
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)	
Phillips Reservoir	26% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	58% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	75% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	74% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	53% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	102% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)	
Grand Ronde at Troy	2400 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	99 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	25 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	198 cfs
Minam River at Minam	176 cfs
Powder River near Richland	221 cfs

SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	6:39 a.m.
Sunset	5:33 p.m.
Moonrise	7:57 a.m.
Moonset	7:43 p.m.
MOON PHASES	
First	Mar 2
Full	Mar 9
Last	Mar 16
New	Mar 24

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	51/35/pc	54/36/s	Lewiston	51/35/sn	57/36/pc
Bend	56/26/pc	61/29/s	Longview	55/36/c	58/34/s
Boise	49/29/pc	54/32/s	Meacham	47/26/c	52/28/s
Brookings	62/45/s	65/45/s	Medford	65/34/s	67/35/s
Burns	55/23/pc	59/27/s	Newport	52/37/pc	54/38/s
Coos Bay	55/38/s	59/39/s	Olympia	53/34/c	57/33/pc
Corvallis	59/35/pc	59/34/s	Ontario	52/25/pc	56/25/s
Council	41/24/c	46/24/s	Pasco	60/29/pc	61/29/s
Elgin	48/27/c	53/29/s	Pendleton	57/32/pc	58/34/s
Eugene	59/35/pc	59/34/s	Portland	58/35/c	61/36/s
Hermiston	60/32/pc	59/32/s	Powers	62/39/s	68/40/s
Hood River	58/32/pc	61/32/s	Redmond	59/23/pc	64/26/s
Imnaha	49/28/c	55/33/pc	Roseburg	62/36/s	63/38/s
John Day	53/26/pc	56/26/s	Salem	58/34/pc	59/33/s
Joseph	45/27/c	51/31/s	Spokane	46/31/c	50/31/pc
Kennewick	60/30/pc	59/31/s	The Dalles	60/32/pc	62/32/s
Klamath Falls	64/26/s	64/26/s	Ukiah	49/25/pc	54/27/s
Lakeview	58/24/s	61/26/s	Walla Walla	55/36/pc	57/36/s

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

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

Location	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
ANTHONY LAKES Clearing	33	19
MT. EMILY REC. Mostly cloudy	39	26
EAGLE CAP WILD. Clearing	36	17
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly cloudy	45	27
THIEF VALLEY RES. Clearing	50	24
PHILLIPS LAKE Clearing	47	22
BROWNLEE RES. Partly sunny	46	26
EMIGRANT ST. PARK Periods of sun	45	23
MCKAY RESERVOIR Partly sunny	56	32
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly cloudy	48	27

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