

# Insensitive question leaves grieving mother speechless

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter unexpectedly died very recently. A "friend" called today asking how I was doing (quarantine, food, pet food, etc). Then she asked me the most unnerving question: "Do you have 'June' with you?" I was floored. So many thoughts came rushing at me at once. June was disabled since birth. She went to live in a group home nine years ago. The friend knew I brought her home for weekends.



## DEAR ABBY

After I didn't speak for several minutes, she asked in an annoyed tone, "Well, did you go get her ashes or not?" (As if having her ashes with me was a comfort? It isn't!) Abby, I didn't know what to say. Her question slammed me against the wall. I mumbled a response, said I had to go and hung up. I'm trying to make myself believe she meant nothing but concern, but I can't seem to make myself believe that the words she used weren't purposely cruel. My warm feelings for her have changed to something ugly. I'm still gasping. Your thoughts?

— GRIEVING MOTHER

**DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER:** Let's give the woman a perfect 10 on the insensitivity meter. She was tactless, but she may not have meant to be unkind. My thought is that you handled the situation as well as you could since her question left you understandably flat-footed. However, I would have answered her differently. I would have responded, "Why do you ask?" and let her explain herself.

**DEAR ABBY:** My older sister bullied me from the time our parents divorced. I was in elementary school, and she was in middle school. We are now adults and retired. Her form of bullying now is to exclude me. It

started with announcing to me that I was adopted and progressed to saying in front of me, "Let's have a family reunion" and not inviting me. When our father died, she was his executor. She showed the will to my sisters, but would not allow me to see it. Yes, I was in the will as an equal. She told the attorney I was a granddaughter, which I caught and corrected.

When I told my oldest sister my feelings were hurt, she accused me of being jealous and blocked me on social media. It's hard to disengage because I have no other family, but I keep busy in other social circles. I was unable to have kids, and the one child I adopted is busy working in another state, so it's just my husband and me now. I tried for years to be nice and to contribute as much as possible. I know I have done nothing wrong. I have searched my soul to see why I deserve this treatment. I don't! Should I just let go of my family since at least two of my three sisters seem to want to let go of me?

— LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

**DEAR LEFT OUT:** Yes, you should. Disengaging from the emotionally abusive sisters who treat you cruelly would be healthy for you. Maintain a relationship with the one who is open to it.

I have advised more than once in this column that sometimes it's necessary to create a family of one's own if circumstances prevent a normal relationship with a person's birth family. You and your husband should continue branching out socially. I predict that once you move in that direction, you will be far happier than you are today.

## DETOURED

Continued from Page 2B

### Fremont Powerhouse

We stopped next at the Fremont Powerhouse, one of the best preserved pieces of the region's mining legacy.

The stone structure, about 5 miles from Granite, was built in 1908 to power the Red Boy Mine, less than a mile to the east. Eastern Oregon Power and Light acquired the powerhouse in 1911 and operated it until 1940. California-Pacific Utilities Co. then ran the Fremont until 1967, when it spat out its final kilowatt. The company donated the property to the U.S. Forest Service.

A heavy burden of rain-soaked snow collapsed the Fremont's roof in 1993, but a crew of National Guard members, supervised by Joe Batty, restored the 2,300-square-foot structure during the summer of 1999.

The Fremont is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Normally it is open during the summer, and four cabins on the property are available to rent.



Lisa Britton / For the EO Media Group

Beaver Meadows near Granite.



Lisa Britton / For the EO Media Group

Beaver dams have created a series of ponds at Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area.

### Beaver Meadows

Rather than drive straight back to Granite and Sumpter — an option that was, however, enthusiastically endorsed from the back seat — I veered south onto Forest Road 13, which follows Clear Creek toward its headwaters in the Greenhorn Mountains.

We parked at the junction with Road 19, the Beaver Meadows Road.

I hadn't been here for probably a decade and a half, and so I had forgotten how lovely the meadows are through which Beaver Creek flows.

It is an unusual stream. Meadows and streams tend to go together, of course. But I can't offhand think of another creek in that general vicinity that has such an extent of meadows — several miles — along its course.

We walked the road for 45 minutes or so before turning around.

On the way back we were halted for a couple of minutes to let a caravan of motorcycles, four-wheelers and side-by-sides roll past. The group, all from Walla Walla, Washington, one rider told us, had started at Sumpter and was headed to Granite. Three people, each in a different vehicle, posed to us a similar version of the same query — "Is this the way to Granite, and how far is it?" — that suggested they were ready to take a break from bouncing along.

We saw them, all parked together, in Granite on our way back to Sumpter.

### Sumpter Dredge

We procured our lunch as planned from the Nugget and then drove to the Sumpter Val-

ley Dredge State Heritage Area to eat at a picnic table beneath a towering cottonwood.

Afterward we strolled over to the dredge, which was open for self-guided tours.

We also hiked some of the trails through the piles of gravel and boulders that are the detritus of the 1,250-ton dredge that churned through the Sumpter Valley between 1913 and 1954, plying its deposits of placer gold.

There is perhaps no better place in Baker County to see the handiwork of beavers — better, certainly, than Beaver Creek, where I didn't see any evidence of the industrious rodents.

Beaver colonies have built dams among the dredge tailing piles, creating a series of ponds.

# weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Rain and drizzle late	Cloudy with a few showers	Mostly cloudy, a shower	Clearing, a shower or two	Clouds and sun; warmer
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55 38</b>	<b>62 33</b>	<b>64 41</b>	<b>76 44</b>
Comfort Index™	4	2	4	3	10
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56 42</b>	<b>61 35</b>	<b>61 46</b>	<b>72 46</b>
Comfort Index™	3	0	3	3	10
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>50 38</b>	<b>56 31</b>	<b>60 41</b>	<b>70 44</b>
Comfort Index™	3	1	3	8	10

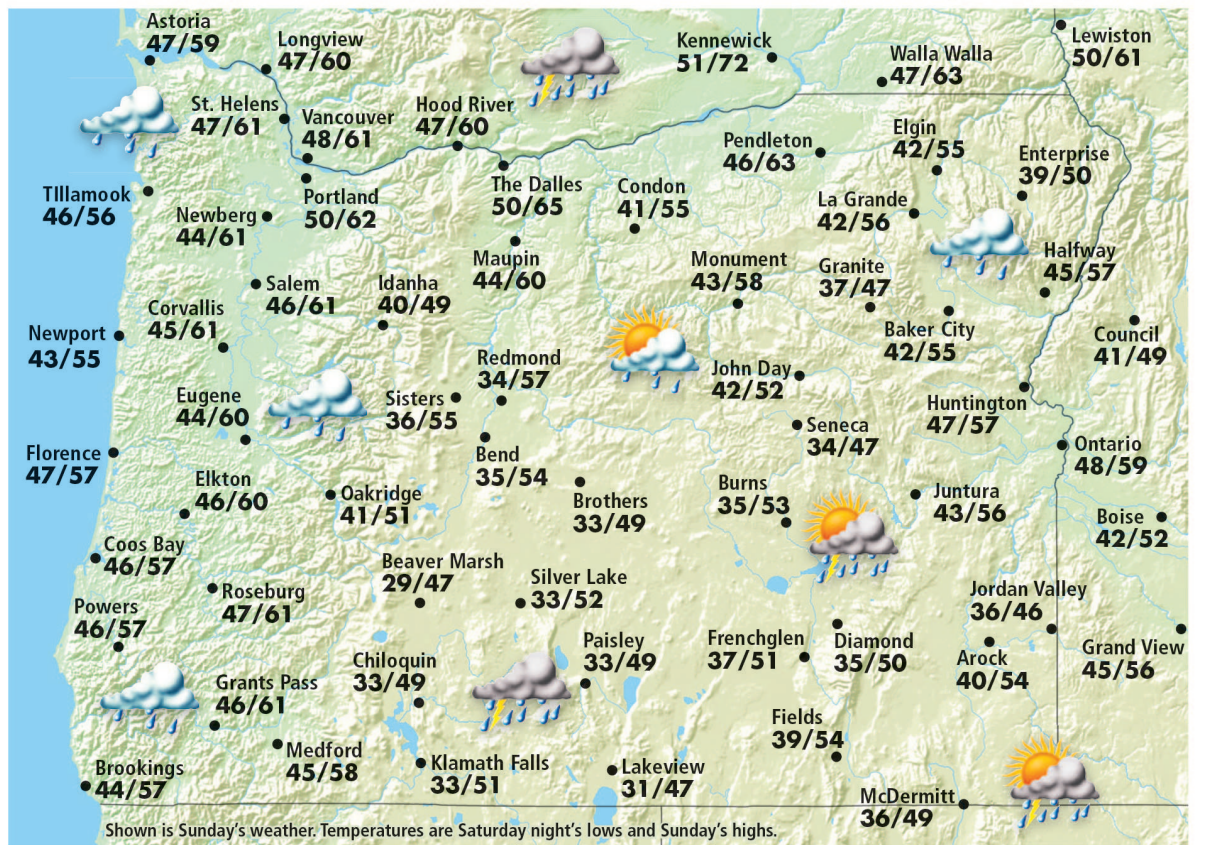
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC		THURSDAY EXTREMES	
<b>TEMPERATURES</b>	Baker City 74° La Grande 71° Elgin 77°	<b>NATION</b> (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 118° Death Valley, Calif. Low: 31° Estcourt Station, Maine Wettest: 3.95" Brooksville, Fla.
<b>PRECIPITATION</b> (inches)	Thursday 0.00 Month to date Trace Normal month to date 0.19 Year to date 2.10 Normal year to date 4.74	<b>OREGON</b>	High: 87° Rome Low: 36° Prineville Wettest: Trace Brookings

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		WEATHER HISTORY	
<b>HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY</b>	Lowest relative humidity 45% Afternoon wind WNW at 8 to 16 mph Hours of sunshine 0.9 Evapotranspiration 0.10	<b>D-Day</b> took place in Normandy, France, on this date in 1944. The assault that helped the Allies win World War II came with partial clearing after a storm that produced record low barometer readings.	

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)		SUN & MOON	
Phillips Reservoir 55% of capacity	Unity Reservoir 98% of capacity	<b>SUN</b>	<b>SUN.</b>
Owyhee Reservoir 80% of capacity	McKay Reservoir 100% of capacity	Sunrise 5:05 a.m.	5:05 a.m.
Wallowa Lake 79% of capacity	Thief Valley Reservoir 103% of capacity	Sunset 8:37 p.m.	8:38 p.m.
<b>STREAM FLOWS</b> (through midnight Thursday)		Moonrise 9:59 p.m.	10:57 p.m.
Grande Ronde at Troy 8520 cfs		Moonset 5:50 a.m.	6:44 a.m.
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder 438 cfs		<b>MOON PHASES</b>	
Burnt River near Unity 105 cfs		Last New First Full	
Umatilla River near Gibbon 174 cfs			
Minam River at Minam 2010 cfs		Jun 12 Jun 20 Jun 28 Jul 4	
Powder River near Richland 522 cfs			

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY	
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>MON.</b>	<b>SUN.</b>	<b>MON.</b>
City Hi/Lo/W	City Hi/Lo/W	City Hi/Lo/W	City Hi/Lo/W
Astoria 59/49/sh	60/49/pc	Lewiston 61/50/c	67/45/c
Bend 54/37/c	60/40/c	Longview 60/49/sh	62/47/pc
Boise 52/42/t	60/43/c	Meacham 54/40/c	59/35/c
Brookings 57/42/sh	59/47/c	Medford 58/44/pc	71/49/c
Burns 53/31/c	63/32/c	Newport 55/46/sh	57/49/c
Coos Bay 57/47/sh	60/50/c	Olympia 63/46/pc	62/46/c
Corvallis 61/45/sh	65/49/c	Ontario 59/44/t	67/42/c
Council 49/36/t	56/32/c	Pasco 71/51/c	74/50/pc
Elgin 55/42/c	61/35/c	Pendleton 63/46/c	67/43/pc
Eugene 60/42/sh	66/47/c	Portland 62/51/sh	66/53/pc
Hermiston 70/50/c	72/48/pc	Powers 57/45/sh	64/48/c
Hood River 60/48/sh	64/48/c	Redmond 57/37/c	64/40/c
Imnaha 53/42/t	59/35/c	Roseburg 61/47/sh	71/49/c
John Day 52/40/c	60/37/c	Salem 61/47/sh	65/50/pc
Joseph 49/36/t	54/32/c	Spokane 61/46/c	63/43/c
Kennewick 72/51/c	74/51/pc	The Dalles 65/51/sh	68/49/pc
Klamath Falls 51/29/pc	62/36/c	Ukiah 52/38/sh	58/32/c
Lakeview 47/29/c	58/33/pc	Walla Walla 63/46/c	66/46/pc

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