

Communication with college friend is a one-way street

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine from college (I graduated four years ago) is incredibly kind but terrible at keeping in touch. She has never been good at responding to texts, but now that we no longer live in the same area, we don't communicate. When she invited me to her wedding, I was surprised because when she got engaged, I reached out to congratulate her and asked for the story of the proposal, and she never responded. Her wedding reception was postponed because of COVID-19, but I watched the Zoom ceremony. I knew it was hard on her, so I have reached out every month or



DEAR ABBY

so for the past four months to tell her I'm thinking of her, but she never replies. I mailed her a card for her wedding, which she also did not acknowledge. She sees my Instagram posts, and I'm connected with her sister and brother-in-law on social media, so I know no harm has come to her, and her cellphone is working. I miss my friend, but I'm conflicted about whether I should RSVP "yes" to the postponed reception. Normally, I would assume silence means someone doesn't want to continue a friendship, but she invited me and a plus-one. Should I accept or reach out to a mutual friend to

see what's going on?
— HOLDING ONTO FRIENDSHIP

DEAR HOLDING: You stated that your friend has never been good at responding. The message she's sending through her extended silence is that you are no longer as important in her life as you were before. Your geographical separation may have something to do with it. If you would like to attend her reception — when and if it is held — respond affirmatively to the invitation. However, if you do, do not expect to be acknowledged for your effort because those niceties are not in her makeup. P.S. You can stop sending the "thinking of you" messages because they are not being appre-

ciated in the manner you would like them to be.
DEAR ABBY: I have a child with autism. He's my world, and I love him deeply. Because he has special needs, I can't afford a babysitter, so my parents watch him all the time or I cancel whatever I need to do that day. Because my parents are my only source of babysitting, they think they don't have to listen to me. If I tell them the time I give him his medication, so don't change it, they think he needs it earlier, and they know better than I do. I'm constantly second-guessed, and if they don't agree with my decisions, they go behind my back. If I buy my son a new toy and my dad doesn't like it, he screams at me and

makes me feel 2 inches tall. He was an absent father, and my mother can't relinquish control of anything.
I'm at a loss on how to handle this because I know they want what's best for my child, but so do I. As his mother, shouldn't I be able to make that decision?
— MY CHILD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MY CHILD: Yes, you should be able to make decisions regarding your son and expect that they will be respected. However, your parents have you over a barrel, and they know it. You do not have to tolerate it. I suggest you contact the Autism Society (autism-society.org). When you do, you will be connected with a local branch for guidance and options.

News of the Weird

Fake U.S. leg band gets pigeon a reprieve in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia — A pigeon that Australia declared a biosecurity risk has received a reprieve after a U.S. bird organization declared its identifying leg band was fake. The band suggested the bird found in a Melbourne backyard on Dec. 26 was a racing pigeon that had left Oregon, 8,000 miles away, two months earlier. On that basis, Australian authorities on Thursday, Jan. 14, said they considered the bird a disease risk and planned to kill it. But Deone Roberts, sport development manager for the Oklahoma-based American Racing Pigeon Union, said on Friday the band was fake. The band number belongs to a blue bar pigeon in the United States which is not the bird pictured in Australia, she said. "The bird band in Australia is counterfeit and not traceable," Roberts said. "They do not need to kill him." Australia's Agriculture Department, which is responsible for biosecurity, agreed that the pigeon dubbed Joe, after U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, was wearing a "fraudulent copy" leg band. "Following an investigation, the department has concluded that Joe the Pigeon is highly likely to be Australian and does not present a biosecurity risk," it said in a statement. The department said it will take no further action. Acting Australian Prime Minister Michael McCormack had earlier said there would be no mercy if the pigeon was from



Channel 9 via AP

In this image made from video, a pigeon with a blue leg band sits on a rooftop Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, in Melbourne, Australia. A U.S. bird organization said the leg band identifying the bird as a U.S. racing pigeon was counterfeit, which may save the bird from strict Australian biosecurity policies that would call for a U.S. pigeon to be killed.

the United States. "If Joe has come in a way that has not met our strict biosecurity measures, then bad luck Joe, either fly home or face the consequences," McCormack said. Martin Foley, health minister for Victoria state where Joe is living, had called for the federal government to spare the bird even if it posed a disease risk. "I would urge the Commonwealth's quarantine officials to show a little bit of compas-

sion," Foley said. Andy Meddick, a Victorian lawmaker for the minor Animal Justice Party, called for a "pigeon pardon for Joe." "Should the federal government allow Joe to live, I am happy to seek assurances that he is not a flight risk," Meddick said. Melbourne resident Kevin Celli-Bird, who found the emaciated bird in his backyard, was surprised by the change of nationality but pleased that the

bird he named Joe would not be destroyed. "I thought this is just a feel-good story and now you guys want to put this pigeon away and I thought it's not on, you know, you can't do that, there has got to be other options," Celli-Bird said of the threat to euthanize. Celli-Bird had contacted the American Racing Pigeon Union to find the bird's owner based on the number on the leg band. The bands have both a number and a symbol, but Celli-Bird didn't

remember the symbol and said he can no longer catch the bird since it has recovered from its initial weakness. The bird with the genuine leg band had disappeared from a 560-kilometer (350-mile) race in Oregon on Oct. 29, Crooked River Challenge owner Lucas Cramer said. That bird did not have a racing record that would make it valuable enough to steal its identity, he said. "That bird didn't finish the race series, it didn't make any money and so its worthless, really," Cramer said. He said it was possible a pigeon could cross the Pacific on a ship from Oregon to Australia. "In reality, it could potentially happen, but this isn't the same pigeon. It's not even a racing pigeon," Cramer said. The bird spends every day in the backyard, sometimes with a native dove on a pergola. "I might have to change him to Aussie Joe, but he's just the same pigeon," Celli-Bird said. Lars Scott, a carer at Pigeon Rescue Melbourne, a bird welfare group, said pigeons with American leg bands were not uncommon around the city. A number of Melbourne breeders bought them online and used them for their own record keeping, Scott said. Australian quarantine authorities are notoriously strict. In 2015, the government threatened to euthanize two Yorkshire terriers, Pistol and Boo, after they were smuggled into the country by Hollywood star Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard. Faced with a 50-hour deadline to leave Australia, the dogs made it out in a chartered jet. — The Associated Press

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weather

TONIGHT

Mainly cloudy

SUN

A passing morning shower

MON

Periods of sunshine

TUE

Increasing clouds

WED

Mostly cloudy

	Baker City	28	41	29	42	23	39	26	38	26
	Comfort Index™	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
	La Grande	31	42	34	43	25	39	29	40	29
	Comfort Index™	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Enterprise	31	42	33	42	24	38	29	40	29
	Comfort Index™	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4

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 Thursday	44°	45°	44°
Low Thursday	25°	26°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.31	0.95	3.94
Normal month to date	0.40	0.81	1.52
Year to date	0.31	0.95	3.94
Normal year to date	0.40	0.81	1.52

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity	55%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	2.8
Evapotranspiration	0.05

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	41% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	47% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	37% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	31% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	79% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	3310 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	4 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	621 cfs
Minam River at Minam	305 cfs
Powder River near Richland	34 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	51/40/pc	50/36/pc	Lewiston	47/38/sh	45/33/pc
Bend	49/28/pc	45/22/s	Longview	51/38/c	51/35/pc
Boise	42/28/pc	42/23/s	Meacham	43/30/pc	38/27/pc
Brookings	62/46/pc	59/44/s	Medford	52/38/pc	51/29/pc
Burns	46/24/pc	43/17/s	Newport	52/39/pc	50/37/s
Coos Bay	54/40/pc	53/37/s	Olympia	51/27/pc	48/35/pc
Corvallis	53/37/pc	50/33/pc	Ontario	39/28/pc	44/25/s
Council	36/23/c	34/15/pc	Pasco	51/30/pc	49/31/s
Elgin	44/37/r	44/27/pc	Pendleton	48/36/pc	46/30/s
Eugene	54/37/pc	49/33/pc	Portland	52/40/r	50/35/c
Hermiston	50/33/pc	49/30/s	Powers	55/36/pc	55/34/s
Hood River	50/39/c	49/35/pc	Redmond	51/27/pc	47/23/s
Imnaha	44/31/pc	42/22/sf	Roseburg	54/41/c	51/34/pc
John Day	43/25/pc	41/18/pc	Salem	53/37/pc	48/33/c
Joseph	41/30/pc	39/21/pc	Spokane	38/29/pc	38/27/s
Kennewick	49/31/pc	49/31/s	The Dalles	53/36/c	51/32/s
Klamath Falls	49/25/pc	48/25/s	Ukiah	44/30/c	39/27/s
Lakeview	49/24/pc	43/19/s	Walla Walla	47/36/sh	46/30/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 SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	A bit of a.m. snow	35	19
MT. EMILY REC.	Showers around	40	32
EAGLE CAP WLD.	A little a.m. snow	35	19
WALLOWA LAKE	A morning shower	41	30
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A stray shower	41	29
PHILLIPS LAKE	A little a.m. snow	39	25
BROWNLEE RES.	Clearing	36	24
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Rain and drizzle	41	29
MCKAY RESERVOIR	A shower	48	36
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	A shower	42	34