

Student has trouble getting homework help from mother

DEAR ABBY: My mom is mad at me. I have been a little bad, but I always do the dishes, sweep, clear the table and take out the trash. Every day when school is finished, I wait for Mom to get off work so she can help me with my homework, but when I do, she gets upset, mad and frustrated and stops talking to me. She tells me to do it myself, but I don't know how to do some. She says I'm smart, but I don't know if I am. Please help me because I want my mom happy.



DEAR ABBY

while trying to assist with your homework, the reason may be she is stressed about something else after a hard day at work, or she doesn't know the solution. Please take that into consideration, because I have no doubt you are smart and want to please her.

When you get stuck, ask your teacher for help if he or she is available. If that isn't workable, another solution to your problem may be as simple as your mom finding someone who can tutor you in areas you are weak in. High school and college students do this (online for now) for extra money. You may also find help online with Khan

Academy or other nonprofit educational organizations.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of our family members habitually come late to gatherings, making the grand entrance. They attended a wedding shower several years ago. They arrived late, ate the food and socialized minimally. Just as the gifts were being opened, the two of them got up, smiled at everyone and walked out. The rest of us were shocked.

Fifteen months later, the two attended a baby shower for the same relative. Again, they arrived late and barely interacted with anyone. When the meal was served, they ate and, just as the presents were about to be opened, they got up and left. Sev-

eral attendees commented on their rudeness.

How do you deal with relatives who feel this is acceptable behavior? We were brought up to believe that if you attend an event, you stay for the event, rather than eat and run. If you can't stay, don't come. Older family members are having a hard time accepting their behavior.

Are we older folk out of step with today's society?

— **HATES RUDENESS**
DEAR HATES RUDENESS: The way to deal with this kind of rudeness is to point out to the offenders that what they are doing is disrespectful. And if it happens after the warning, omit them from the guest list.

DEAR ABBY: I clipped

and saved a quote you published years ago. Given today's challenges, I thought it might be a good time to reprint it: "Things turn out for the best for those who make the best of the way things turn out."

— **BOB IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

DEAR BOB: Amen to that. And it applies to so many different situations.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Aging desktop is source of attorney's accidental cat filter

RICHMOND, Texas — Texas attorney Rod Ponton's appearance as a fluffy kitten during an online court hearing provided a moment of levity to a pandemic- and Zoom-fatigued world.

But that specific, adorable filter may be tough to find for anyone looking to replicate the viral moment.

Ponton told The Associated Press that he was using his assistant's 10-year-old desktop Dell computer when he logged in for a routine civil forfeiture hearing Tuesday, Feb. 9, in Presidio County, Texas, where he serves as prosecutor.

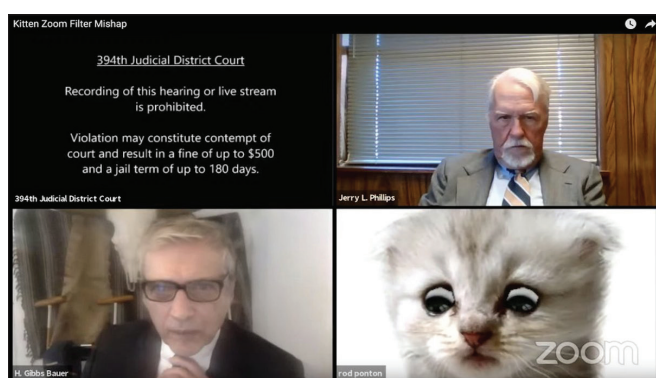
Ponton said his appearance looked normal on the webcam as he waited to be let into the Zoom hearing in Judge Roy Ferguson's court. But when the hearing began, to his shock and dismay, he was a cat.

"I think everybody in the world's seen the video now and heard me trying as I struggled to try to un-cat myself," he said.

Ponton said he's still trying to untangle the mystery, but he believes the computer's software and the assistant's young child are the likeliest culprits.

Texas-based Dell Technologies said the aging desktop was likely in need of a software update.

"Mr. Ponton was likely running an outdated driver, which may have held him in cat filter limbo a little too long," said Glen



Texas Department of Criminal Justice via AP

This image from a Zoom video shows a hearing Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, from the 394th Judicial District Court of Texas. The hearing took a detour when an attorney inadvertently showed up looking like a kitten due to an image filter on the borrowed computer he was using.

Robson, chief technology officer at Dell's client solutions group. "While those of us techies were probably cringing watching that video, I'm sure cat lovers everywhere were celebrating."

Video filters and virtual backgrounds have exploded in popularity as much of the world's activities moved online during the pandemic. One commonly used program is Snap Camera, which lets users download all kinds of filters, including one that makes a person appear like a potato (as one woman famously did early in the pandemic).

Separately, Zoom offers filters of its own through its app, though none as realistic as Ponton's attorney-cat.

Mishaps in online courtrooms have occurred throughout the pandemic as the legal community adjusts to remote proceedings. A Georgia case last year was disrupted by hold music,

background noise and the neglected mute button. And in Florida, a judge told attorneys they must get out of bed and put on clothing before appearing on video for proceedings.

Ferguson, the judge who oversaw Tuesday's hearing and posted the video online, told The Associated Press he had no idea the clip would become an instant hit.

"My phone started to melt within about two minutes, and I realized that this was going to take on a life of its own," Ferguson said.

In one of the more hilarious moments, Ponton tells the judge: "I'm prepared to go forward" with the hearing, despite his feline appearance.

Ponton was good-humored about his new notoriety, telling the AP: "I'm happy to give the world a laugh because I think we needed it after the last few months."

— **Associated Press**



51ST Annual Northwest Ag Show

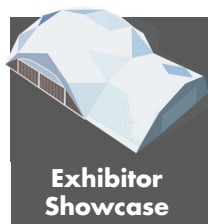
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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Cloudy, flurries; cold	Cloudy and not as cold	Cloudy	Snow showers possible	Times of clouds and sun
Baker City	18	32 24	39 29	43 25	41 28
La Grande	16	35 28	42 34	40 31	42 30
Enterprise	14	32 20	43 30	38 23	38 30
Comfort Index™	0	1	0	1	3

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	32°	27°	30°
Low Thursday	24°	19°	17°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.01	0.01	Trace
Month to date	0.02	0.01	0.61
Normal month to date	0.23	0.42	0.94
Year to date	0.39	1.05	4.92
Normal year to date	1.03	2.05	4.11

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High: 86° Imмокalee, Fla.
 Low: -46° Cotton, Minn.
 Wettest: 3.95" Columbia, Miss.

OREGON
 High: 51° North Bend
 Low: 5° Meacham
 Wettest: 0.22" Grants Pass

WEATHER HISTORY

A gale-whipped blizzard on Feb. 13, 1899, dumped up to 3 feet of snow from Massachusetts to Delaware. Cold air pushed deep into the South. The mercury at Tallahassee, Fla., dropped to 2 degrees below zero.

SUN & MOON

	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:57 a.m.	6:55 a.m.
Sunset	5:17 p.m.	5:19 p.m.
Moonrise	8:19 a.m.	8:40 a.m.
Moonsset	7:30 p.m.	8:35 p.m.

MOON PHASES



AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity	35%
Afternoon wind	ESE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.0
Evapotranspiration	0.04

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

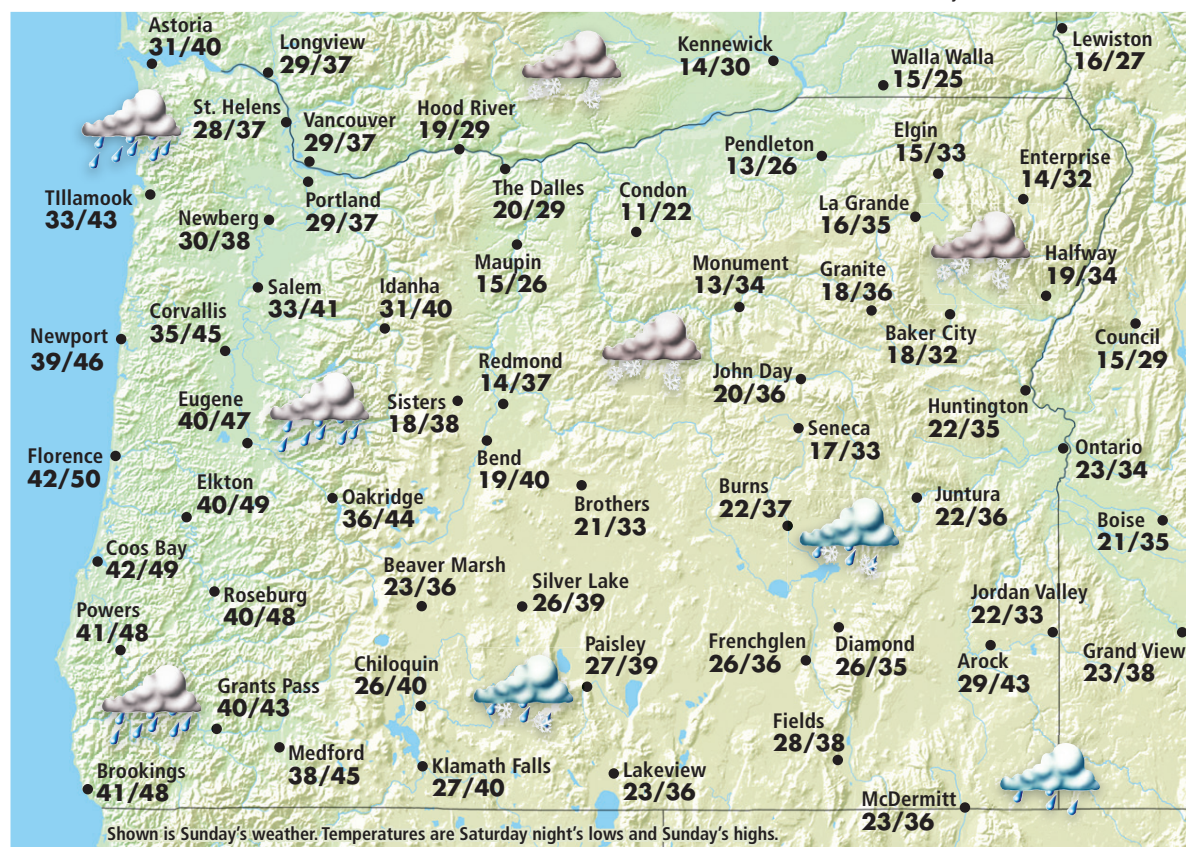
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	48% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	50% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	45% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	37% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	96% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1280 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	59 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	11 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	125 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	69 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	40/38/sh	47/41/r	Lewiston	27/18/c	33/32/sn
Bend	40/33/c	44/30/c	Longview	37/35/sh	45/42/r
Boise	35/25/c	38/31/c	Meacham	33/23/c	41/32/c
Brookings	48/45/sh	51/42/r	Medford	45/42/sh	52/39/sh
Burns	37/30/c	40/29/c	Newport	46/43/sh	48/42/r
Coos Bay	49/46/sh	51/42/r	Olympia	38/33/sh	41/36/r
Corvallis	45/42/sh	50/40/r	Ontario	34/25/c	39/29/c
Council	29/18/c	32/24/c	Pasco	30/21/c	32/25/sf
Elgin	33/23/sn	41/35/c	Pendleton	26/19/c	35/34/c
Eugene	47/44/sh	50/41/c	Portland	48/43/sh	42/39/r
Hermiston	30/21/c	34/32/c	Powers	37/32/sh	49/42/r
Hood River	29/23/sn	46/41/c	Redmond	37/27/sf	43/30/c
Imnaha	30/20/c	40/30/r	Roseburg	48/46/sh	51/42/r
John Day	36/32/c	41/31/c	Salem	41/38/sh	46/41/r
Joseph	32/23/sn	43/29/sn	Spokane	25/18/c	28/20/sn
Kennewick	30/19/c	32/24/c	The Dalles	29/22/sn	39/35/c
Klamath Falls	40/34/r	44/29/c	Ukiah	34/28/c	42/34/c
Lakeview	36/30/c	42/26/c	Walla Walla	25/21/c	31/31/sn

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 Cloudy	21	17	PHILLIPS LAKE Cloudy	36	28
MT. EMILY REC. Cloudy and cold	27	22	BROWNLEE RES. Cloudy	34	22
EAGLE CAP WILD. Snow, up to 1"	26	14	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Not as cold	28	23
WALLOWA LAKE Snow, up to 1"	32	23	MCKAY RESERVOIR Cloudy; very cold	26	20
THIEF VALLEY RES. Afternoon flurries	32	24	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Not as cold	35	28