

Woman spurred to action by grandkids' plight



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I have a grandson (25) and granddaughter (22) who are both extremely overweight (300 pounds each). They not only have health issues, but also mental issues. Both work part time at the same company as their mom and dad — and still live at home. They don't date, don't drive and are very dependent on their parents because their parents encourage it. My granddaughter is being treated with meds; my grandson is not.

I'm very close to him, and he shares a lot with me. He has issues with both of his parents,

but more so with his mom. They were raised in a very Christian home. There were always weight issues for the entire family because they eat most of their meals out. My daughter-in-law rarely cooks, and the house resembles a "Hoarders" home.

In the past, I tried talking with my son and his wife but they have a convenient excuse for everything I bring up. During my last conversation with my grandson, he was so unhappy he mentioned suicide. Please can you help me? How can I get through to my son and his wife?

— **Distraught Grandma in Texas**

Dear Grandma: Do your son and his wife know their son is depressed to the point of talking about suicide? If

they are unaware, put them on notice. While you're at it, give him the number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.

Because you have already tried talking to his parents and found them unresponsive, would you consider inviting your grandson to live with you for a while? It would be a way of teaching him healthier eating habits, and if he needs medication, you might be able to see that his doctor prescribes it. Living apart from his parents might also be an incentive for him to become more independent in other ways, such as continuing his education if he is able, which would improve his employment prospects.

Dear Abby: There is a trend

happening these days. Young people live together for several years, get pregnant and go to the justice of the peace to get legally married. Then, a year or more later, they sometimes decide to have a formal wedding ceremony. Friends throw them a shower, and the wedding is often elaborate.

I thought a shower gift or wedding gift was to help the new couple to get their household set up. These couples already have everything in their house. I feel this is a slap in the face of tradition. What are your thoughts?

— **Old-Fashioned**

Dear Old-Fashioned: Yes, it's a break with tradition. These changes have occurred because of changes in social mores, the economy and gender roles. The

tradition used to involve a young woman going directly from her parents' house to that of her husband.

More recently, young people have postponed marriage, established themselves in the workplace and achieved economic independence before coupling up. This is a positive step because if the marriage fails or the spouse dies, the widowed spouse isn't left without the tools to support themselves and their family.

While you may think the couple "already has everything they need," take a peek at their bridal registry because it may be an eye-opener. And remember, if you cannot celebrate happily with the couple, no rule of etiquette dictates that you must attend the wedding.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

China's wandering elephants becoming international stars

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Already famous at home, China's wandering elephants now are becoming international stars.

Major global media are chronicling the herd's more than year-long, 300-mile trek from their home in a wildlife reserve in mountainous southwest Yunnan province to the outskirts of the provincial capital of Kunming.

Twitter and YouTube are full of clips of their various antics, particularly those of two calves who slipped into an irrigation ditch and had to be helped out by older members of the group.

"We should be more like the elephant and be more family oriented, take family vacations and help and care for and protect each other," read one comment on YouTube signed MrDeterministicchaos.

The elephants have been trending for days on China's Weibo microblogging service with photos of the group sleeping attracting 25,000 posts and 200 million views Monday night, June 7.

The 15-member herd has been caught at night trotting down urban streets by security cameras, filmed constantly from the air by more than a dozen drones and followed by those seeking to minimize damage and keep both pachyderms and people out of harm's way.

They've raided farms for food and water, visited a car dealership and even showed up at a retirement home, where they poked their trunks into some of the rooms, prompting one elderly man to hide under his bed.

While no animals or people



Yunnan Forest Fire Brigade via AP

In this photo taken June 4, 2021, and released by the Yunnan Forest Fire Brigade, a migrating herd of elephants on June 4, 2021, graze near Shuanghe Township, Jinning District of Kunming city in southwestern China's Yunnan Province. Already famous at home, China's wandering elephants are now becoming international stars. Major global media, including satellite news stations, news papers and wire services are chronicling the herd's more-than year-long, 300 mile trek from their home in a wildlife reserve in mountainous southwest Yunnan province to the outskirts of the provincial capital of Kunming.

have been hurt, reports put damage to crops at more than \$1 million.

Sixteen animals were originally in the group, but the government says two returned home and a baby was born during the walk. The herd now is composed of six female and three male adults, three juveniles and three calves, according to official reports.

What exactly motivated them to make the epic journey remains a mystery, although they appear to be especially attracted to corn, tropical fruit and other crops that are tasty, plentiful and easy to obtain in the lush tropical region that is home to about 300 of the

animals. Others have speculated their leader may be simply lost.

Asian elephants are loyal to their home ranges unless there have been disturbances, loss of resources or development, in which case they may move out, according to Nilanga Jayasinghe, manager for Asian species conservation at the World Wildlife Fund.

"In this case, we don't really know why they left their home range, but do know that there has been significant habitat loss due to agriculture and conversion of forests into plantations within that range in the last few decades," Jayasinghe wrote in an email. "What possibly happened here is

that in their search for new habitat, they got lost along the way and kept going."

Authorities have been working to avoid negative interactions and "must determine what the best next steps here are and keep human-elephant conflict at bay," Jayasinghe wrote.

Kunming is to host the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity's Convention of Parties to discuss topics such as human-wildlife conflict, and "this is a real-time example of the importance of addressing the issue and its root causes for the benefit of both wildlife and people," she wrote.

Elephants are given the top level of protection in China, allowing their numbers to steadily increase even as their natural habitat shrinks, and requiring farmers and others to exercise maximum restraint when encountering them. Government orders have told people to stay inside and not to gawk at them or use firecrackers or otherwise attempt to scare them away.

So far, more passive means are being used to keep them out of urban areas, including the parking of trucks and construction equipment to block roads and the use of food drops to lure them away.

As of June 8, the herd remained on the outskirts of Kunming, a city of 7 million, with one of the males having moved away on his own, creating even more excitement — and worry — for those attempting to keep tabs on them.

A statement June 7 from a provincial command center set up to monitor the group said the elephants appeared to be resting, while more than 410 emergency response personnel and police personnel, scores of vehicles and 14 drones were deployed to monitor them. Area residents were evacuated, temporary traffic control measures implemented, and 2 tons of elephant food put in place.

Another objective was to "maintain silence to create conditions for guiding the elephant group to migrate west and south," the command center said.

Asian elephants, the continent's largest land animal, are declining overall, with less than 50,000 left in the wild. Habitat loss and resulting human-wildlife conflict are their biggest threats, along with poaching and population isolation.

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Cloudy and cool	Considerable cloudiness	Nice with clouds and sun	Mostly sunny and warmer	Warm with lots of sun
Baker City	41	70 42	76 45	89 52	92 52
Comfort Index™	9	9	10	6	4
La Grande	46	72 49	78 51	91 53	90 55
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	4	4
Enterprise	40	67 48	75 53	89 53	86 55
Comfort Index™	7	10	10	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 Tuesday	73°	73°	79°
Low Tuesday	42°	49°	48°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	Trace	0.00	Trace
Month to date	Trace	Trace	Trace
Normal month to date	0.38	0.49	0.56
Year to date	2.23	5.90	14.21
Normal year to date	4.91	8.29	12.48

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	SW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	5.6
Evapotranspiration	0.14

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	17% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	83% of capacity
Owhee Reservoir	47% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	93% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	51% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	88% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	3720 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	92 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	102 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	100 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1300 cfs
Powder River near Richland	28 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 107°	Presidio, Texas
Low: 25°	Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 6.15"	Batesville, Miss.
OREGON	
High: 83°	Ontario
Low: 31°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.11"	Bend

WEATHER HISTORY

A woman was sucked through a window in her home in El Dorado, Kan., by a powerful tornado on June 10, 1958, and carried 60 feet. A broken record found next to her was entitled "Stormy Weather."

SUN & MOON

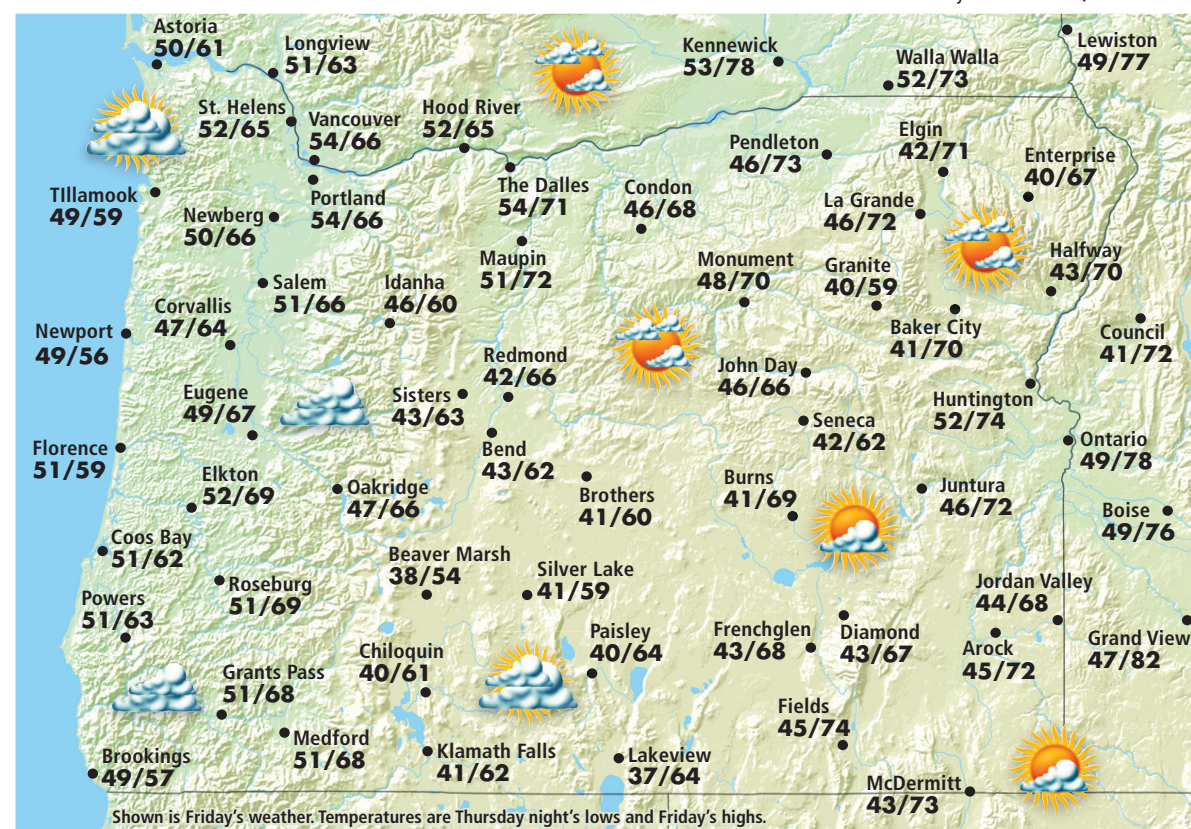
	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	5:04 a.m.	5:04 a.m.
Sunset	8:40 p.m.	8:40 p.m.
Moonrise	5:08 a.m.	5:50 a.m.
Moonset	9:19 p.m.	10:14 p.m.

MOON PHASES

Phase	Date
New	Jun 10
First	Jun 17
Full	Jun 24
Last	Jul 1

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI.		SAT.		City	FRI.		SAT.			
	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W		HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W			
Astoria	61/51/r	69/57/sh	Lewiston	77/55/c	82/57/pc	Bend	62/42/sh	80/53/pc	Longview	63/55/sh	77/59/c
Boise	76/55/c	82/59/pc	Meacham	69/49/c	77/51/c	Brookings	57/51/r	62/54/sh	Medford	68/52/sh	83/63/s
Burns	69/40/c	78/48/pc	Newport	56/50/r	62/54/sh	Coos Bay	62/52/r	67/56/sh	Olympia	61/49/sh	74/54/c
Corvallis	64/50/sh	74/55/c	Ontario	78/57/c	82/57/pc	Elgin	71/48/c	78/53/pc	Pendleton	73/51/pc	82/55/pc
Council Bluffs	72/49/c	78/49/pc	Pasco	77/55/pc	85/58/pc	Eugene	67/52/sh	76/58/pc	Portland	66/55/sh	75/61/c
Hermiston	78/53/c	86/55/pc	Powers	63/52/sh	70/60/sh	Hood River	65/52/sh	80/61/c	Redmond	66/41/sh	82/51/pc
Imnaha	68/51/c	78/50/pc	Roseburg	69/54/sh	80/59/pc	John Day	66/47/sh	77/50/pc	Salem	66/54/sh	74/59/c
Joseph	65/47/c	73/55/pc	Spokane	69/49/c	75/54/c	Kennewick	78/55/pc	86/60/pc	The Dalles	71/52/sh	82/63/c
Klamath Falls	62/39/c	78/48/pc	Ukiah	64/41/sh	75/43/pc	Lakeview	64/39/pc	79/44/pc	Walla Walla	73/53/c	83/61/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A shower or two	42 31	PHILLIPS LAKE A p.m. shower	61 43
MT. EMILY REC. Cloudy	55 44	BROWNLEE RES. Cloudy	73 54
EAGLE CAP WILD. Cloudy and chilly	50 37	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Cloudy	62 40
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly cloudy	65 47	MCKAY RESERVOIR Mostly cloudy	72 48
THIEF VALLEY RES. Cloudy	70 42	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Cloudy	72 49