

# Neighbor wants to express thanks for help provided



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

**DEAR ABBY:** I went for a jog the other morning, and when I returned home I discovered I was locked out of my house because the garage door keypad wasn't working. I had left without my cellphone or a key, so I tried to contact my wife through our Ring doorbell. My wife told me she'd phone a friend and my mother to see if they could deliver a key.

In the interim, I fidgeted with the garage door keypad and dis-

covered I could remove the battery. I knocked on the door of a neighbor who'd previously popped their head out and asked to use their cellphone and also asked if there was any chance they had a replacement battery, which they did. My neighbor invited me inside to call my wife and wave off a key delivery.

I later stopped and bought a thank-you card, a replacement battery and \$20 in Amazon gift cards with the intention of gifting all three to my neighbor. My wife thinks the gift cards were unnecessary and a "weird" thing to give my neighbor.

The neighbor and their partner are in their late 30s or

early 40s, seemingly financially well enough off, and I thought a gift card was a universally accepted gift. I thought it would be a nice gesture without being too over-the-top. Was I too generous? Or is it too forward of an offering? — **SAVED IN THE MIDWEST**

**DEAR SAVED:** Your offering wasn't weird, too generous or over-the-top. The gratitude you were expressing was from your heart and a reflection of how desperate you felt at the time. Your wife should have stayed out of it.

**DEAR ABBY:** Forty years ago, I had an affair with a married man. When he broke up with me, I didn't think I could live

through it, but I had a 2-year-old daughter from another relationship and I had to hold it together. A few years later, I met and married my husband of 35 years.

Three months ago, I received a message on Facebook saying, "If this is who I think it is, how are things?" I know I never should have, but I answered. My former lover lives hundreds of miles from me, but we text almost every day. I am just realizing how narcissistic he is, and I need to end this.

My husband and I have had problems over the years, but we have raised three very successful children and have three beautiful grandkids. It was nice to hear

how my ex always loved me and how we are soul mates — saying everything I wanted to hear. But now that I've been dragged down that rabbit hole, I need to get out and quit falling for his lies. Please help. — **MUDDLED IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**DEAR MUDDLED:** If this emotional fling continues, it will destroy the life you have created with your husband of 35 years. If there are issues in your marriage that made you vulnerable to your old lover, I urge you to deal with them. Please reread the first paragraph of your letter, then ghost and block this person. You owe him nothing — not even a goodbye.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Footprints show some two-legged dinosaurs were agile

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Not all two-legged dinosaurs were like the lumbering Tyrannosaurus rex.

An analysis of dinosaur tracks from 120 million years ago unearthed in Spain adds to growing evidence that these meat-eating prehistoric beasts belonging to the same group as T. rex could be highly agile.

The findings, published Thursday, Dec. 9, in Scientific Reports, reveal one of the fastest known sets of fossilized dinosaur footprints.

These tracks join the ranks of other speedy sets found in Utah and Texas, one of which shows dinosaurs running at speeds over 30 mph. The Spanish footprints showed speeds of nearly 28 mph.

To calculate the running speed, scientists measured the length of the footprint and took into account the dinosaur's hip height and stride length — the distance between two consecutive footprints of the same foot.

All of the fastest known sets of prints come from a family of dinosaurs called theropods. These carnivorous dinosaurs stood on two legs and could not fly, like the famed velociraptor. The animals that created the most recent impressions were probably 5 to 6-1/2 feet tall and 13 to 16 feet long from mouth to tail, the researchers estimated.

Scientists think there may be other faster dino-



**A researcher measures a 120 million year-old fossilized dinosaur footprint in the La Rioja region in northern Spain, while doing research about dinosaur running speeds, in October 2020. Scientists discovered one of the quickest sets of theropod tracks in the world through this research.**

Alberto Labrador/The Associated Press

saurs, but the tracks of theropods have been easier to track down.

"Behavior is something very difficult to study in dinosaurs," said lead author Pablo Navarro-Lorbés of the University of La Rioja. "These kind of findings are very important, I think,

for improving that kind of knowledge."

Scientists typically predict dinosaur behavior through computer modeling of the creatures' movement. Physical examination of fossilized footprints confirm the results.

These are "clearly active,

agile animals," said Smithsonian paleontologist Hans Sues, who had no role in the study.

### 6 years and counting: Ex-treasure hunter still stuck in jail

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — A former deep-sea trea-

sure hunter is preparing to mark his sixth year in jail for refusing to disclose the whereabouts of 500 missing coins made from gold found in an historic shipwreck.

Research scientist Tommy Thompson has been held in contempt of

court since Dec. 15, 2015, for that refusal. He is also incurring a daily fine of \$1,000.

Thompson's case dates to his discovery of the S.S. Central America, known as the Ship of Gold, in 1988. The gold rush-era ship sank in a hurricane off South Carolina in 1857 with thousands of pounds of gold aboard, contributing to an economic panic.

Despite an investor's lawsuit and a federal court order, Thompson, 69, still won't cooperate with authorities trying to find those coins, according to court records, federal prosecutors and the judge who found Thompson in contempt.

Thompson says he's already said everything he knows about the coins. Thompson pleaded guilty in April 2015 for his failure to appear for a 2012 hearing and was sentenced to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. But Thompson's criminal sentence has been delayed until the issue of the gold coins is resolved.

Federal law generally limits jail time for contempt of court to 18 months. But a federal appeals court in 2019 rejected Thompson's argument that that law applies to him, saying his refusal violates conditions of a plea agreement.

After technology problems cancelled Thompson's latest virtual hearing last week, federal Judge Algenon Marbley scheduled a new hearing for Jan. 7.

# weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Rain and drizzle	Cloudy with a shower	A couple of showers	Mostly cloudy	A chance for a flurry
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41 28</b>	<b>42 26</b>	<b>32 11</b>	<b>27 15</b>
Comfort Index™	0	2	0	1	0
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41 34</b>	<b>44 24</b>	<b>36 14</b>	<b>33 24</b>
Comfort Index™	0	2	0	2	1
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38 30</b>	<b>45 27</b>	<b>32 11</b>	<b>28 23</b>
Comfort Index™	0	0	0	0	0

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	35°	36°	36°
Low Thursday	18°	24°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.01	0.08
Month to date	0.06	0.11	0.80
Normal month to date	0.26	0.62	1.23
Year to date	5.07	10.09	22.84
Normal year to date	8.47	16.14	23.41

### AGRICULTURAL INFO.

#### HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	S at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.0
Evapotranspiration	0.05

#### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	0% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	18% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	15% of capacity
Mckay Reservoir	12% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	12% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	10% of capacity

#### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Reservoir at Troy	1150 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	14 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	251 cfs
Minam River at Minam	143 cfs
Powder River near Richland	18 cfs

### THURSDAY EXTREMES

**NATION** (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 91°	Zapata, Texas
Low: -9°	Escourt Station, Maine
Wettest: 1.17"	New Orleans, La.

**OREGON**

High: 49°	Brookings
Low: 18°	Baker City
Wettest: 0.46"	Tillamook

### WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 11, 1992, a powerful storm brought over 30 inches of snow to parts of central Pennsylvania. Wind gusts topped 85 mph in Wildwood, N.J., and hurricane-force wind gusts occurred in Central Park.

### SUN & MOON

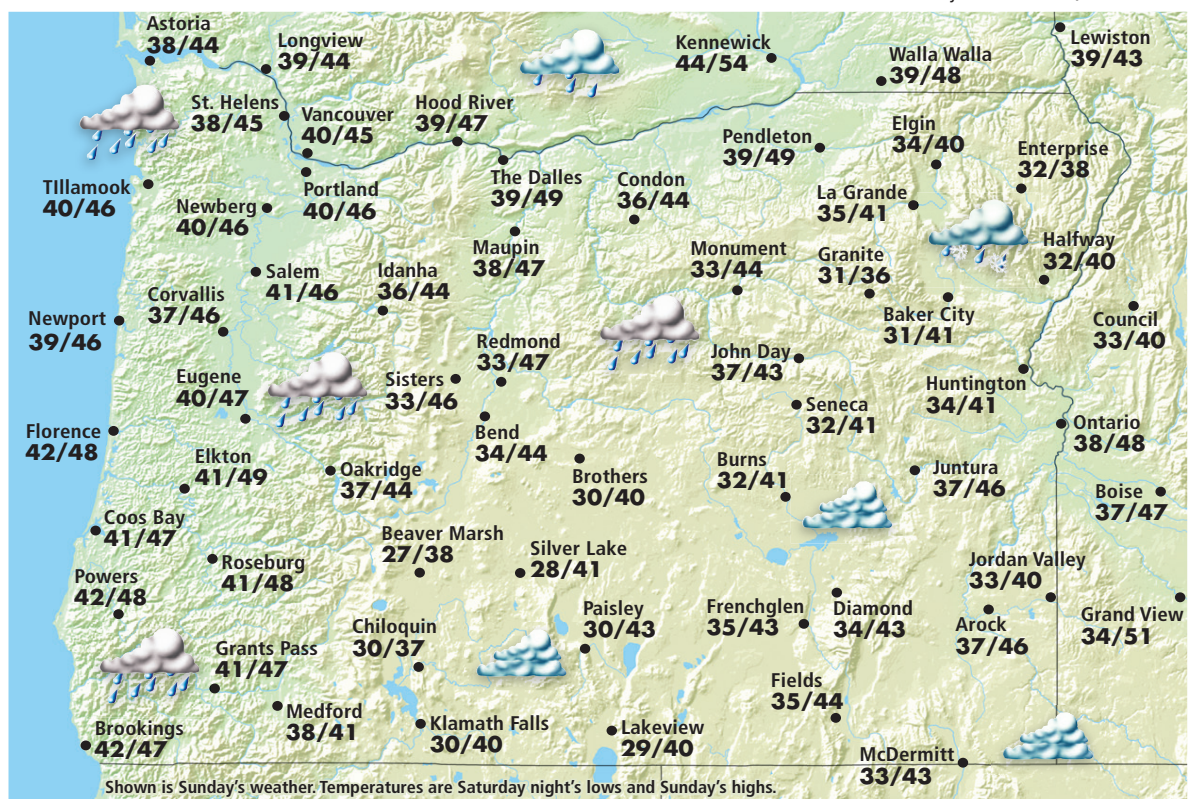
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	7:22 a.m.	7:23 a.m.
Sunset	4:09 p.m.	4:10 p.m.
Moonrise	12:53 p.m.	1:12 p.m.
Moonset	none	12:48 a.m.

### MOON PHASES

Full	Dec 18
Last	Dec 26
New	Jan 2
First	Jan 9

## 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	44/35/sh	43/34/r	Lewiston	43/32/r	42/35/c
Bend	44/34/c	40/24/r	Longview	44/38/r	45/36/r
Boise	47/39/c	51/35/c	Meacham	39/31/c	45/22/sh
Brookings	47/42/sh	49/27/c	Medford	41/36/sh	42/31/r
Burns	41/30/c	47/22/sh	Newport	46/37/sh	43/35/r
Coos Bay	47/38/sh	42/33/r	Olympia	42/36/sh	43/35/r
Corvallis	46/35/sh	45/31/r	Ontario	48/38/c	54/38/sh
Council	40/36/r	44/35/r	Pasco	52/37/c	47/33/r
Elgin	40/29/c	46/22/sh	Pendleton	49/35/r	53/31/r
Eugene	47/36/sh	45/33/r	Portland	46/39/sh	45/36/r
Hermiston	53/39/c	47/35/r	Powers	48/41/r	42/32/r
Hood River	47/30/r	45/27/r	Redmond	47/34/c	44/21/r
Imnaha	44/36/r	48/35/sh	Roseburg	48/41/sh	45/32/r
John Day	43/37/sh	49/27/c	Salem	46/40/sh	45/35/r
Joseph	38/31/sn	43/28/sn	Spokane	38/27/c	40/30/sh
Kennewick	54/37/c	46/34/r	The Dalles	49/36/sh	45/31/r
Klamath Falls	40/29/sn	39/21/sn	Ukiah	37/32/c	45/20/sh
Lakeview	40/28/c	41/18/c	Walla Walla	48/38/c	48/34/sh

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

### RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

<b>ANTHONY LAKES</b> Snow, up to 1"	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>PHILLIPS LAKE</b> Intermittent snow	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>MT. EMILY REC.</b> Snow and sleet	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>BROWNLEE RES.</b> Rain and drizzle	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>EAGLE CAP WILD.</b> Snow, 1-3"	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>EMIGRANT ST. PARK</b> Snow, 1-3"	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>WALLOWA LAKE</b> A little p.m. snow	<b>38</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>MCKAY RESERVOIR</b> Rain and drizzle	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>THIEF VALLEY RES.</b> Morning snow, 1-3"	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>RED BRIDGE ST. PARK</b> Cloudy, a shower	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>