

# Educator feels homeschool past carries stigma today



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

I am asked what year I graduated, or other questions about my schooling. (They assume that since this is my hometown, I attended school in the same district in which I work.) If I reply with, "I was homeschooled," I get shocked silence, and feel I must somehow justify my mom's choice to homeschool me (something over which I had no control).

This isn't just from colleagues, but also parents and staff. In addition, our district likes to feature alumni who work at the district and who chose to return to their hometown to give back. Well, I meet one of those criteria, but I cringe when they mistakenly announce my name as an alumna

in a public forum, not knowing how to handle it. Please advise.  
— EDUCATION LOVER IN ARIZONA

**DEAR EDUCATION LOVER:** I think it is time for you to stop being self-conscious about the kind of education your mother gave you, which equipped you to attain not one, but multiple graduate degrees. Rather than "cringe" and hide the fact that you are not an alumna from the district, discuss this with the administrators, so the error can be corrected.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been married for seven years. He provides financially for our family, while I work part-time. My hus-

band is an "open book" when it comes to discussing our personal finances with others, while I am extremely private about this type of information.

Recently, our neighbors stopped by, and he told them what we paid for some work we had done on our house, which they did not ask to know. I was appalled that he did it, and asked him after they were gone not to tell people such private information. I'm very uncomfortable discussing our salaries with others, while he thinks it's something for all to know.

We're a middle-class family, and I'm by no means embarrassed by our finances, but I think it's preferable to abstain from discussing these matters with others.

He thinks it's rude not to tell people what we pay for things and how much we make and save. Is it common practice to discuss personal finances with others?  
— PRIVATE LADY IN NEW MEXICO

**DEAR PRIVATE LADY:** Rude?! Nowhere is it written that people "have" to discuss their finances with anyone other than one's spouse, immediate family or CPA. Keeping quiet about financial matters is not a breach of etiquette; it's good judgment. What your husband is doing could be perceived as bragging, which creates resentment and jealousy rather than impresses others, and anyone who reads my column knows it can drive people away.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Postal hike doesn't stop catalogers from stuffing mailboxes

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A big postal rate increase over the summer hasn't stopped catalog retailers from stuffing mailboxes this holiday season.

The U.S. Postal Service says more than 300 million catalogs flooded into people's mailboxes last month, and the overall number of catalogs has grown 12% over last year, officials said.

The boost continues a positive trend for catalogers that are defying those who predicted their demise in a digital world.

"The industry is not dying. There are plenty of companies that are still aggressively mailing catalogs," said Paul Miller, vice president and deputy director of the American Catalog Mailers Association.

Some online retailers like Bonobos, Amazon and Wayfair began mailing catalogs in recent years. A few that went away, like the Sharper Image and J. Peterman, have returned. Heavyweights like Lands' End, Hammacher Schlemmer and L.L. Bean never wavered.

Several factors are working in favor of catalog retailers.

For starters, digital advertising on e-commerce websites has grown as much as 20% to 40% this year even as privacy policy changes — Apple's efforts in particular — have made it more difficult to target ads and measure their



A selection of catalogs are displayed in Freeport, Maine. A big postal rate increase over the summer hasn't stopped catalog retailers from stuffing mailboxes this holiday season. The U.S. Postal Service says more than 300 million catalogs flooded into people's mailboxes last month and that overall the number of catalogs has grown 12% over last year.

effectiveness, said Andrew Lipsman, retail analyst at eMarketer.

Further, some find online shopping difficult to navigate — a space that is jumbled thanks to algorithms, marketing and advertising, analysts say, making it hard for people to

find what they want.

Jonathan Zhang, a professor of marketing at Colorado State University, said another important factor is that catalog and store shoppers are more loyal to brands than people who shop online only. His research found a

higher return on investment from catalogs because those shoppers buy more than online-only shoppers.

The internet's clutter tends to produce shoppers who search for specific things, preventing the "serendipitous discoveries" that shoppers make while

browsing in a store or catalog, he said.

New York shopper Helen Kaplow acknowledges it's easier to thumb through catalogs and circle items of interest or dog-ear the pages, rather than scrolling through websites. One of her favorite catalogs around

this time of the year is from The Vermont Country store.

"Catalogs do seem a bit old-fashioned. They're so analog. But I think it may be their only way of getting visuals in front of you," said Kaplow, who hasn't set foot in a store in years.

Nonetheless, catalogs remain expensive to print and mail.

The U.S. Postal Service gave a one-two punch to the industry this year with a 3% postage increase in January followed by an additional, unexpected increase of nearly 9% implemented in August.

But consumer spending remains hot and catalogs are a way for retailers to differentiate themselves, so it makes sense for retailers who can afford to distribute catalogs to do so, Lipsman said.

Catalog numbers dropped about 40% between 2006 to 2018, when an estimated 11.5 billion were mailed to homes, but they've stabilized and are showing signs of an uptick in volume, according to Miller at the ACMA.

Miller said catalogs won't be going away anytime soon, partly because they have staying power compared to the fleeting impact of email, online advertisements and other digital communication.

"People are used to clicking and moving on, but the catalog is still sitting there on your coffee table. It's going to continue to entice you to shop," he said.

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# weather

|                | TONIGHT                  | SUN                       | MON                   | TUE          | WED                    |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
|                | A little late-night snow | Cloudy with a little snow | A rain or snow shower | Partly sunny | A snow shower possible |
| Baker City     | 23                       | 33 23                     | 34 21                 | 33 19        | 34 24                  |
| Comfort Index™ | 0                        | 0                         | 0                     | 1            | 0                      |
| La Grande      | 31                       | 36 32                     | 39 28                 | 39 25        | 39 31                  |
| Comfort Index™ | 0                        | 0                         | 3                     | 2            | 2                      |
| Enterprise     | 28                       | 39 30                     | 40 27                 | 41 27        | 41 31                  |
| Comfort Index™ | 2                        | 0                         | 4                     | 5            | 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          | 32°        | 36°       | 38°   |
| Low Thursday           | 22°        | 30°       | 31°   |
| PRECIPITATION (inches) |            |           |       |
| Thursday               | Trace      | 0.08      | 0.16  |
| Month to date          | 0.30       | 0.64      | 2.77  |
| Normal month to date   | 0.45       | 1.02      | 2.02  |
| Year to date           | 5.31       | 10.62     | 24.81 |
| Normal year to date    | 8.66       | 16.54     | 24.20 |

### AGRICULTURAL INFO.

| HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY   |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Lowest relative humidity | 60%              |
| Afternoon wind           | S at 7 to 14 mph |
| Hours of sunshine        | 0.1              |
| Evapotranspiration       | 0.04             |

### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

| Reservoir              | Capacity        |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Phillips Reservoir     | 1% of capacity  |
| Unity Reservoir        | 19% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir       | 15% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir        | 14% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake           | 13% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 12% of capacity |

### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

| Stream                                   | Flow     |
|--|----------|
| Grande Ronde at Troy                     | 1100 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 0 cfs    |
| Burnt River near Unity                   | 14 cfs   |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon               | 179 cfs  |
| Minam River at Minam                     | 168 cfs  |
| Powder River near Richland               | 20 cfs   |

### THURSDAY EXTREMES

| NATION (for the 48 contiguous states) |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| High: 90°                             | Zapata, Texas     |
| Low: -15°                             | Wolf Point, Mont. |
| Wettest: 1.82"                        | Texarkana, Ark.   |

| OREGON         |            |
|----------------|------------|
| High: 51°      | North Bend |
| Low: 14°       | Burns      |
| Wettest: 0.37" | North Bend |

### WEATHER HISTORY

Wind-driven lake-effect snow accumulated to 2 feet in northwestern Pennsylvania on Dec. 18, 1981. In 1984, this date seemed more like its April counterpart, with temperatures in the 60s in Pennsylvania.

### SUN & MOON

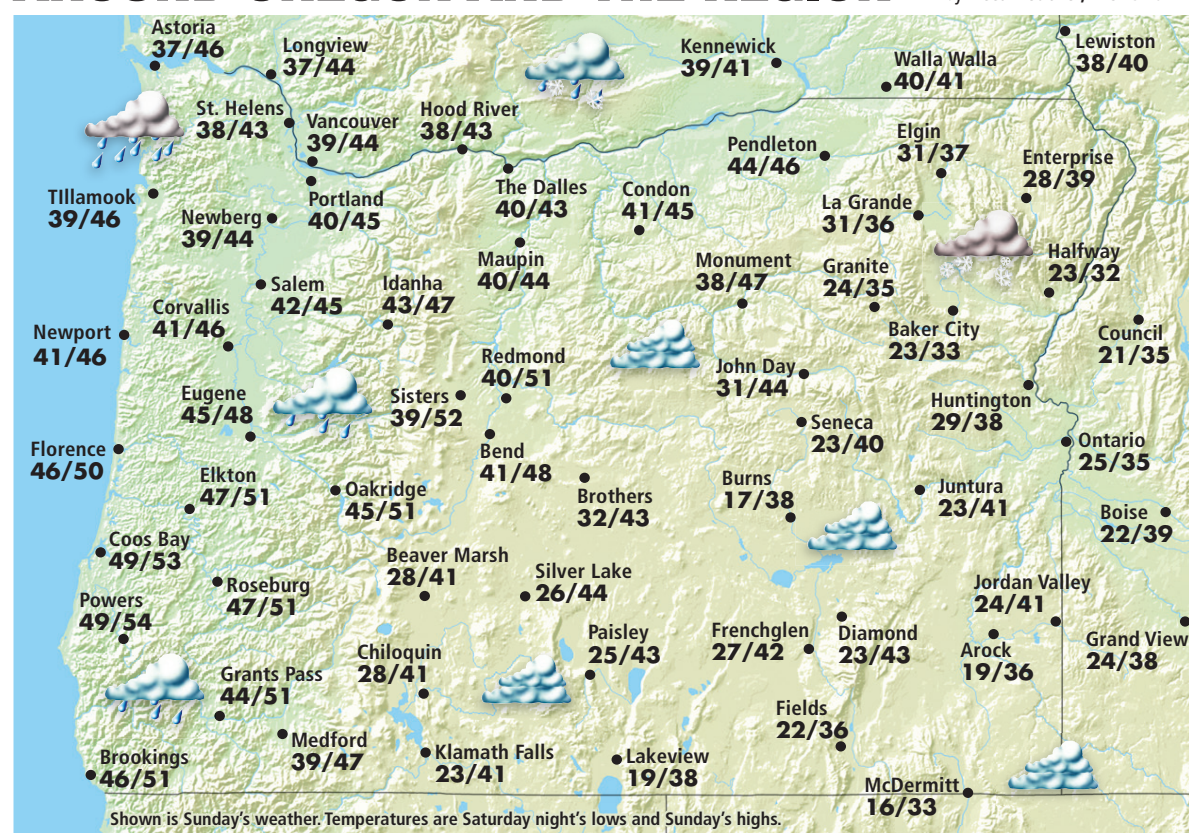
|          | SAT.      | SUN.      |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sunrise  | 7:27 a.m. | 7:28 a.m. |
| Sunset   | 4:11 p.m. | 4:11 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 3:45 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. |
| Moonset  | 7:13 a.m. | 8:11 a.m. |

### MOON PHASES

| Phase | Date   |
|-------|--------|
| Full  | Dec 18 |
| Last  | Dec 26 |
| New   | Jan 2  |
| First | Jan 9  |

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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### REGIONAL CITIES

| City          | SUN.     | MON.     | City        | SUN.     | MON.     |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
|               | Hi/Lo/W  | Hi/Lo/W  |             | Hi/Lo/W  | Hi/Lo/W  |
| Astoria       | 46/40/c  | 47/41/sh | Lewiston    | 40/35/sn | 39/34/r  |
| Bend          | 48/35/c  | 50/35/c  | Longview    | 44/40/r  | 45/39/r  |
| Boise         | 39/26/c  | 37/23/c  | Meacham     | 36/31/sn | 40/26/sn |
| Brookings     | 51/45/r  | 54/43/c  | Medford     | 47/37/c  | 46/38/c  |
| Burns         | 38/22/c  | 35/19/c  | Newport     | 46/37/r  | 49/40/sn |
| Coo's Bay     | 53/46/r  | 51/44/sh | Olympia     | 43/37/c  | 41/35/sh |
| Corvallis     | 46/39/r  | 47/38/c  | Ontario     | 35/26/c  | 37/23/c  |
| Council       | 35/27/sn | 35/24/c  | Pasco       | 41/34/r  | 37/31/c  |
| Elgin         | 37/33/sn | 39/23/c  | Pendleton   | 46/31/r  | 36/31/i  |
| Eugene        | 48/42/r  | 48/41/c  | Portland    | 45/43/r  | 46/39/r  |
| Hermiston     | 44/34/r  | 39/34/c  | Powers      | 54/42/r  | 51/43/sh |
| Hood River    | 43/36/r  | 41/35/r  | Redmond     | 51/33/r  | 49/29/c  |
| Imnaha        | 41/36/sn | 43/34/c  | Roseburg    | 51/43/r  | 51/42/c  |
| John Day      | 44/37/r  | 44/36/c  | Salem       | 45/43/r  | 48/40/sh |
| Joseph        | 38/32/sn | 41/30/c  | Spokane     | 35/25/c  | 32/25/sn |
| Kennewick     | 41/33/r  | 36/33/c  | The Dalles  | 43/37/r  | 41/34/sn |
| Klamath Falls | 41/24/c  | 41/26/c  | Ukiah       | 41/33/sn | 45/30/c  |
| Lakeview      | 38/17/c  | 39/17/c  | Walla Walla | 41/33/r  | 34/31/sh |

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

| Location            | Forecast        |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| ANTHONY LAKES       | Periods of snow |
| 25                  | 24              |
| MT. EMILY REC.      | Periods of snow |
| 30                  | 29              |
| EAGLE CAP WILD.     | Snow            |
| 25                  | 23              |
| WALLOWA LAKE        | Periods of snow |
| 38                  | 32              |
| THIEF VALLEY RES.   | Snow            |
| 33                  | 23              |
| PHILLIPS LAKE       | Snow            |
| 34                  | 25              |
| BROWNLEE RES.       | Snow to rain    |
| 38                  | 32              |
| EMIGRANT ST. PARK   | Snow, up to 1"  |
| 36                  | 28              |
| MCKAY RESERVOIR     | Periods of rain |
| 48                  | 32              |
| RED BRIDGE ST. PARK | A bit of snow   |
| 36                  | 32              |