

Politics strain friendship that's lasted for decades



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: A friend of 40 years got mad at me after the last presidential election. I told her I didn't want to talk politics, since we voted for different candidates. She then emailed me saying she thought we should take a break from our long-distance phone calls. We had been calling each other every two weeks to catch up.

Because it has now been more than a year, I emailed her, texted her and finally left a message on her answering machine asking if

she was still mad. (I did this over a period of a week.) Then I got worried, since she's in her 80s. I finally called her daughter and was told she was in the hospital recovering from heart surgery. When her daughter told her I was trying to get in touch, I received a text that read, "Not mad. Just don't want to talk."

I hate to give up on a long friendship. Her birthday is coming up. Should I send her a birthday card, or respect her wishes and give up? — **OLD FRIEND IN FLORIDA**

DEAR OLD FRIEND: People don't jump to conclusions. People in the early stages of recovery from major surgery may not feel up to long discussions until they

are stronger. By all means, send your friend a birthday card and include in it that you treasure your friendship and wish her a speedy and complication-free recovery. After that, the ball is in her court.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a lovely woman for 40 years. I recently found out that five years into our marriage she had an affair with a friend of ours. It lasted several weeks, during which they would meet at our house over the lunch hour.

My wife does not know this friend, having recently found religion, has confessed to me. I had suspected it for a few years. Should I tell her I know or just go on as though nothing hap-

pened? — **IN THE KNOW IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR IN THE KNOW: I cannot guess what justification this "friend" has given for trying to clear his conscience by telling you something that could destroy your marriage. The punishment for his guilt should have been the burden of carrying it to his grave without sharing it with you. If his confession will erode your relationship with your wife, tell her what you were told so you can talk it through.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor's husband died of COVID-related problems. I was never officially informed. About a week later, his clothing, favorite chair and other items were put on the curb in a

free pile. While the pile is now gone, my concern is for the people who took the items. I will let you inform the world what might be the better solution. — **PANICKED IN OREGON**

DEAR PANICKED: I am glad to do that. The information is available to anyone who is interested. Folks, it's as near as your computer. Fire it up and go to [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html), where you will find a "Frequently Asked Questions" section with information about how the virus is spread and how to avoid contracting it. From what I have read, germs on surfaces are less likely to spread the virus than person-to-person contact.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Records: Wrong Wright brothers plate flew through approval

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH**
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The backward Wright Flyer that was at the center of an embarrassing license plate mistake in Ohio last year flew through the approval process with little to no discussion, records show.

Designers at the Ohio Department of Public Safety fussed over such issues as color saturation, centering and image placement. The Ohio State Highway Patrol tested the license plate's lettering for readability.

Meanwhile, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and his wife, Fran, controlled the imagery's overall messaging — from its rural and urban themes, to its nods to Ohio's water resources and history, to the breed of the plate's playful pup.

The flipped around plane — dragging a "Birthplace of Aviation" banner from its front, rather than its back end — appeared to be there from the outset, according to emails and images from the 15-month design process provided to The Associated Press through a public records request. Greg Wyatt, the department's visual communications manager, declined an AP request for comment on the plate or the design process.

The Wright brothers' historic aircraft was intended as a proud symbol of Ohio's place



Jessie Balmert/The Cincinnati Enquirer, File

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, unveiled the new "Sunrise in Ohio" license plate in Columbus, Ohio. A backwards image of the Wright Flyer that appeared on the initial version of Ohio's new license plate was added to the design early and never changed or questioned throughout the approval process, according to public records obtained by The Associated Press. The error was fixed only after the public unveiling in October drew attention to it.

in aviation history, but it turned into a punchline in October, after the new plate design was unveiled and people immediately noticed it was oriented incorrectly.

"Y'all leave Ohio alone," tweeted the Department of Transportation in North Carolina, where the Ohio-bred Wright brothers took their famous first flight in 1903. "They wouldn't know. They weren't there."

The flyer is unusually shaped by modern aircraft standards, with what could be mistaken for a tail, or

rudder, at the front and its big wings at the rear.

The mistake was fixed immediately once it was discovered. The new "Sunrise in Ohio" plate became available to the public last week. It is the state's 76th new plate and its first since 2013.

Some 35,000 plates were produced before the wrong Wright Flyer was caught.

The plane's orientation wasn't discussed in any unredacted portions of the emails provided.

Its only mention was in the context of a problem on

an earlier plate.

The 2009 "Beautiful Ohio" plate on which the faulty one was loosely based used clipart of the plane that wasn't approved for commercial use, according to the emails. Lawyers worked the issue out, though their specific advice was redacted. The Republican governor conceded when unveiling the plate this fall that he and the first lady "probably drove them crazy" at the Public Safety Department with all their input.

In a Jan. 17, 2021, email, Wyatt listed the plane as the governor's first priority.

At the plate's release, DeWine said he and Fran had a "particular interest" in the Wright brothers. That's because the famous brothers' early flight tests took place in their county, at Huffman Prairie less than 20 miles from the DeWines' Cedarville home.

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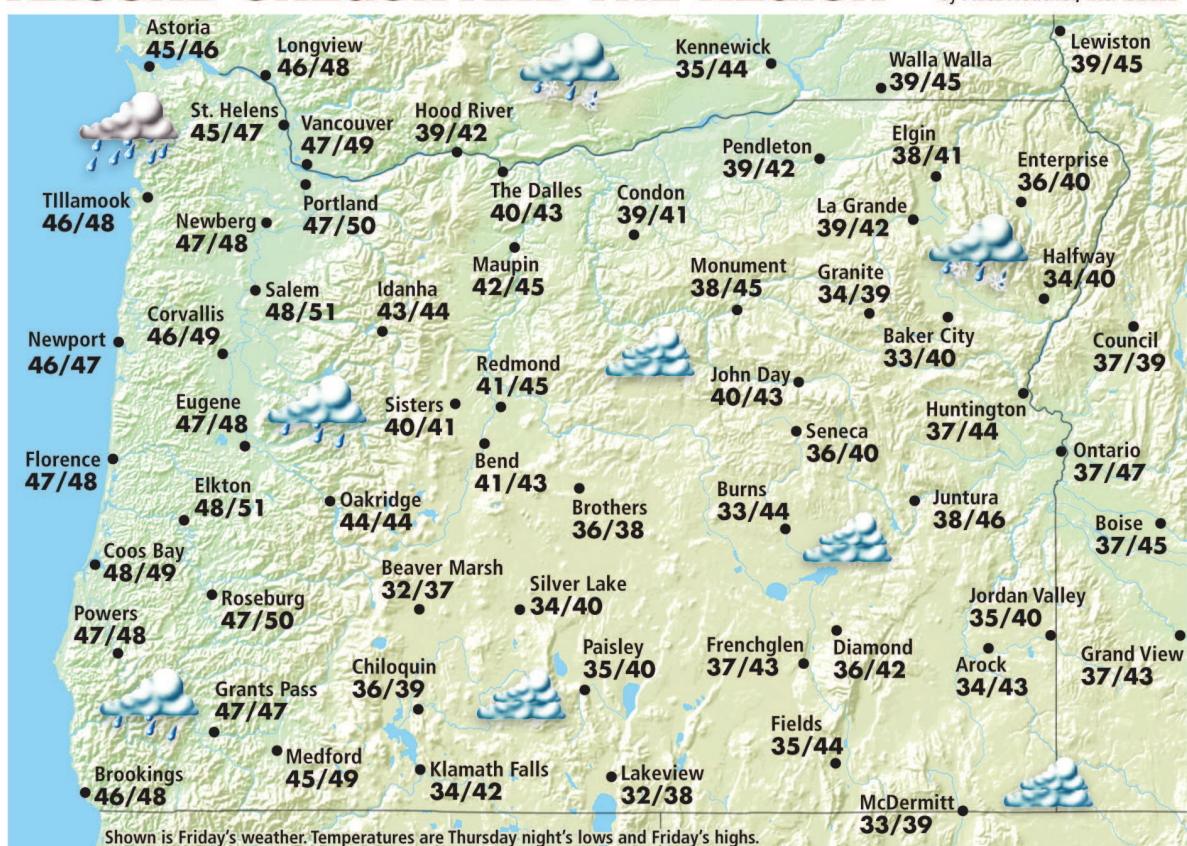
	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Cloudy with showers	A little snow	A morning flurry or two	Mostly sunny and chilly	Chilly with high clouds
Baker City	33	40	21	31	14
La Grande	39	42	33	37	21
Enterprise	36	40	24	34	19

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		TUESDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City 32° 34° La Grande 19° 24° Elgin 23° 23°	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states) High: 79° Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Low: -21° Williams Fork Dam, Colo. Wettest: 1.00" Florence, Ore.	
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Tuesday 0.05 0.08 0.32 Month to date 0.13 0.29 0.32 Normal month to date 0.10 0.23 0.43 Year to date 0.13 0.29 0.32 Normal year to date 0.10 0.23 0.43	OREGON High: 52° North Bend Low: 19° Baker City Wettest: 1.00" Florence	

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		WEATHER HISTORY															
HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY	Lowest relative humidity 65% Afternoon wind W at 6 to 12 mph Hours of sunshine 0.0 Evapotranspiration 0.03	SUN & MOON	On Jan. 6, 1884, Atlanta, Ga., had a low of 1 below zero. On the same date in 1983, all 50 states had at least one reporting point with above-freezing temperatures, which is very rare for winter.														
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)	Phillips Reservoir 1% of capacity Unity Reservoir 22% of capacity Owyhee Reservoir 17% of capacity McKay Reservoir 18% of capacity Wallowa Lake 16% of capacity Thief Valley Reservoir 20% of capacity	MOON PHASES															
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)	Grade Ronde at Troy 926 cfs Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder 0 cfs Burnt River near Unity 15 cfs Umatilla River near Gibbon 106 cfs Minam River at Minam N.A. Powder River near Richland 38 cfs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>First</td> <td>THU.</td> <td>FRI.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunrise</td> <td>7:31 a.m.</td> <td>7:31 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunset</td> <td>4:25 p.m.</td> <td>4:26 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moonrise</td> <td>10:35 a.m.</td> <td>10:57 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moonset</td> <td>9:23 p.m.</td> <td>10:34 p.m.</td> </tr> </table>	First	THU.	FRI.	Sunrise	7:31 a.m.	7:31 a.m.	Sunset	4:25 p.m.	4:26 p.m.	Moonrise	10:35 a.m.	10:57 a.m.	Moonset	9:23 p.m.	10:34 p.m.
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AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY	
ASTORIA	45/46	ANTHONY LAKES	Snow, 1-2"; breezy
BEND	43/29/sn	MT. EMILY REC.	A little snow
BOISE	45/30/c	EAGLE CAP WILD.	Snow, 1-2"
BROOKINGS	48/39/r	WALLOWA LAKE	A little snow
BURNS	49/41/r	THIEF VALLEY RES.	A little snow
COOS BAY	49/41/r	ASTORIA	26
CORVALLIS	49/36/r	LEWISTON	17
ELGIN	39/18/sn	LONGVIEW	26
ELKTON	48/51	MEACHAM	17
FLORENCE	47/48	MEDFORD	28
GRANTS PASS	47/47	NEWPORT	25
HUNTINGTON	37/44	OLYMPIA	26
JUNTA	38/46	ONTARIO	26
LA GRANDE	39/42	PASCO	26
LAKEVIEW	32/38	PENDLETON	17
LEWISTON	39/45	PORTLAND	29
LONGVIEW	46/48	POWERS	17
MAUPAIN	42/45	ROSEBUD	26
MAURICE	42/45	ROSEBUD	26
MONUMENT	38/45	SEASIDE	26
NEWBERG	47/48	SEASIDE	26
NEWPORT	46/47	SEASIDE	26
ORONOGO	37/39	SEASIDE	26
OSHTOS	37/39	SEASIDE	26
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