

Former spouses ready to try again after 16 years



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I reconnected with my ex-husband, "Liam," a year ago, 16 years after our divorce. (We hadn't seen or talked to each other during that time.) He's remarried with four kids; I am single with two kids. We got married when we were young, but we're now in our early 40s. We know what we want or don't want in a partner, and know what we will/won't put up with, etc.

Liam is still legally married, and I have been single for a year.

He and his wife have been separated almost two years. We have been intimate, which I feel has brought us closer together. We are very compatible. We get along well, have the same religious beliefs and we're both vegetarians. We had a long talk about our future a few days ago and whether we should try to get back together. Both of us feel the same way. We're still very much in love with each other after all these years.

Should we try to get back together when the time is right, or should we leave the past behind us and let it go? Any advice is greatly appreciated. — **SECOND CHANCE IN GEORGIA**

DEAR SECOND CHANCE:

No one can decide FOR you whether you and Liam should try to reconcile "when the time is right" — which I assume means when he is divorced from his current wife. I can offer this advice: As appealing as the idea may seem right now, do not do it until you have had joint counseling with a licensed marriage and family therapist to resolve any lingering issues that "might" crop up.

Also, if Liam is really contemplating offloading his current missus, he needs to consult an attorney who specializes in family law so he will be fully prepared for the battle that's sure to lie ahead.

DEAR ABBY: I had sub-

stance abuse problems in the past. I have been in a rehabilitation program for a while now, and have been sober for more than a year. I would like to continue my sobriety and feel I could stay sober from drugs and still drink socially. My family is against me drinking at all, even though alcohol is plentiful at their holiday get-togethers. They also don't want me socializing with friends who drink at all, even if these friends don't use other substances. I should mention I am of legal drinking age.

How can I convince my family that I will stay off drugs while drinking socially? I know they want what's best for me, but I don't want to feel left out

of family events or have to end friendships, which feels extreme. — **RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL DRINKER**

DEAR RESPONSIBLE: While your family is well-intentioned, I agree their thinking they can maintain your sobriety "for" you by deciding what you may and may not drink on their premises is extreme. And the decision of who you can safely socialize with should be made by you.

This is an important subject you should discuss with your sponsor or the administrators of your substance abuse rehabilitation program. Please don't wait to do it. Not knowing you personally, I cannot — and should not — advise you further than this.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Rare eagle seen in Maine, wowing birders, might stay a bit

The Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Maine — A rare species of eagle that has thrilled bird lovers and baffled scientists since arriving in Maine might not be in a hurry to leave.

The Steller's sea eagle arrived in Maine in late December after a brief stop in Massachusetts more than a month ago. It has stuck to Maine's middle coast, eating fish and ducks and attracting hundreds of bird-watchers from all over the world.

The sea eagle numbers only a few thousand worldwide and is native to north-eastern Asia, including Russia and Japan, and has wingspans of up to 8 feet. The bird is far off course, and it's still unclear why it came here at all, said Doug Hitchcox, staff naturalist at Maine Audubon.

But the bird doesn't appear to be in any kind of danger, Hitchcox said. It has an ample food supply and is living in habitat that is similar enough to its native range, he said. It's possible it could eventually return to its home range, but for now it's comfortable in Maine, Hitchcox said.

"This one is so far off course, it's just purely speculation to say it could go back and then return. There is no reason it couldn't make its way back to Japan or Russia," he said. "It seems to be doing OK."

It's not uncommon for vagrant bird species to return year after year to places far from their typical range. A single red-billed



Zachary Holderby/Downeast Audubon

In this Dec. 31, 2021, photo provided by Zachary Holderby, a Steller's sea eagle is seen off Georgetown, Maine. The rare eagle has taken up residence thousands of miles from its home range, delighting bird lovers and baffling scientists.

tropicbird, a species commonly seen in the Caribbean and tropical oceans, has been seen off Maine in the summer for years. Birders affectionately call it "Tropy."

Maine's lone Steller's sea eagle is an adult, and its sex is not confirmed. It is sometimes seen around bald eagles, dwarfing the national symbol. The Steller's, named for German naturalist Georg Wilhelm Steller, is one of

the largest eagles in the world, often weighing 13 to 20 pounds — twice as much as a bald eagle.

The bird drew dozens of onlookers to Reid State Park in Georgetown when it was first seen in Maine, and birdwatchers have continued to come to the state for weeks with no sign of stopping.

Allison Black, a birder from Connecticut, made the four-hour drive to see the bird. Many bird fans

are relying on websites and social media channels set up to help people track the eagle.

"I took my mom with me, too, who isn't a birder, but heard the story about the eagle and wanted to see it. We actually tried to see it back in December when it was in Massachusetts, but missed it by 10 minutes. That hurt," she said. "I saw in the alerts that it flew not too long after we left, so I'm

thankful we were at the right place at the right time to finally see it."

U.S. says new intel shows Russia plotting false flag attack

WASHINGTON — The U.S. accused the Kremlin on Thursday, Feb. 3, of an elaborate plot to fabricate an attack by Ukrainian forces that Russia could use as a pretext to take military action against its neighbor. Pentagon spokesman

John Kirby said the scheme included production of a graphic propaganda video that would show staged explosions and use corpses and actors depicting grieving mourners.

The plan for the fake attack on Russian territory or Russian-speaking people was revealed in declassified intelligence shared with Ukrainian officials and European allies in recent days. It is the latest allegation by the U.S. and Britain that Russia is plotting to use a false pretext to go to war against Ukraine.

The White House in December accused Russia of developing a "false-flag" operation to create pretext for an invasion. Britain recently named specific Ukrainians it accused of having ties to Russian intelligence officers plotting to overthrow Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The U.S. also released a map of Russian military positions and detailed how officials believe Russia will try to attack Ukraine with as many as 175,000 troops.

"We've seen these kinds of activity by the Russians in the past, and we believe it's important when we see it like this, and we can, to call it out," Kirby told reporters at the Pentagon.

The U.S. has not provided detailed information backing up the intelligence findings.

Kirby said that the Russians would also stage military equipment used by Ukraine and the West to bolster the credibility of the scheme.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A little evening snow	Cold; a little p.m. snow	Not as cold	Sun, then clouds	Low clouds may break
Baker City	12	27 13	30 13	28 14	32 14
Comfort Index™	0	0	1	0	1
La Grande	15	28 22	37 21	34 22	38 21
Comfort Index™	0	0	1	0	2
Enterprise	8	21 17	36 22	39 22	36 23
Comfort Index™	0	0	3	4	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 Sunday	27°	33°	34°
Low Sunday	4°	20°	21°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	Trace	Trace	0.00
Month to date	0.38	1.24	3.73
Normal month to date	0.68	1.62	3.18
Year to date	0.38	1.24	3.73
Normal year to date	0.68	1.62	3.18

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 81°	Thermal, Calif.
Low: -31°		Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Wettest: 1.23"		Quillayute, Wash.
OREGON	High: 57°	Roseburg
Low: 4°		Baker City
Wettest: 0.42"		Seaside

WEATHER HISTORY

Brownsville, Texas, and Juneau, Alaska, both had temperatures of 32 degrees on Feb. 1, 1985. On that same day, 2 inches of snow accumulated in Dallas, Texas.

SUN & MOON

	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	7:13 a.m.	7:12 a.m.
Sunset	4:59 p.m.	5:01 p.m.
Moonrise	8:03 a.m.	8:33 a.m.
Moonset	5:40 p.m.	6:59 p.m.

MOON PHASES	First	Full	Last	New
	Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY

Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	N at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.4
Evapotranspiration	0.03

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

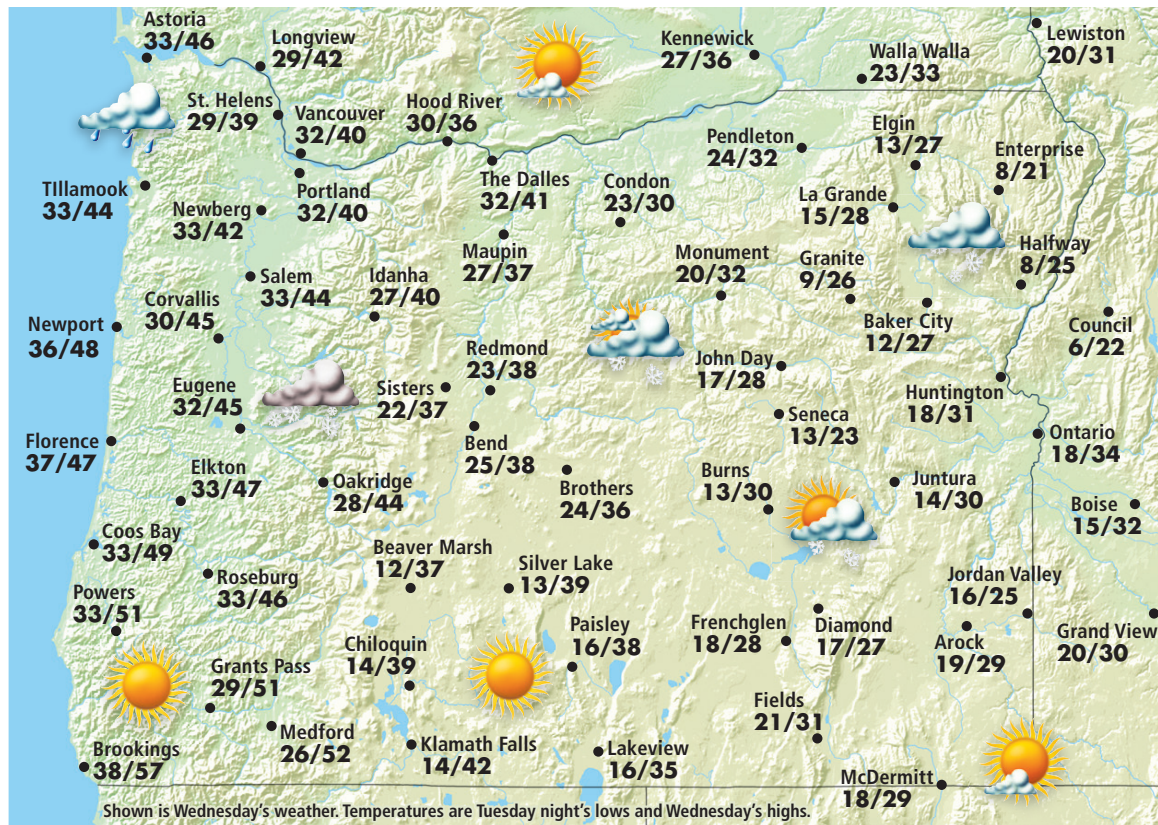
Phillips Reservoir	2% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	27% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	20% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	36% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	21% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	35% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1150 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	168 cfs
Minam River at Minam	166 cfs
Powder River near Richland	76 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	46/40/r	48/37/c	Lewiston	31/25/c	41/29/c
Bend	38/30/c	50/28/s	Longview	42/36/r	46/34/r
Boise	32/16/pc	29/14/pc	Meacham	26/18/c	37/17/pc
Brookings	57/40/pc	60/39/pc	Medford	52/27/pc	57/27/s
Burns	30/16/sn	37/12/pc	Newport	48/39/sh	51/38/pc
Coos Bay	49/34/c	56/32/pc	Olympia	42/37/r	46/39/pc
Corvallis	45/30/c	48/32/pc	Ontario	34/17/pc	33/14/pc
Council	22/11/pc	27/7/pc	Pasco	37/28/c	43/29/c
Elgin	27/19/c	35/17/c	Pendleton	32/30/sn	47/28/pc
Eugene	45/33/c	48/31/pc	Portland	40/37/r	46/33/c
Hermiston	35/32/c	49/32/c	Powers	51/35/c	56/36/s
Hood River	49/35/c	49/32/c	Redmond	38/25/c	48/23/s
Imnaha	29/20/c	41/27/c	Roseburg	46/34/c	52/33/pc
John Day	28/20/sn	37/22/pc	Salem	44/36/sh	50/34/c
Joseph	21/15/c	35/24/pc	Spokane	22/17/c	29/26/c
Kennewick	36/27/sf	44/31/c	The Dalles	41/36/c	47/34/pc
Klamath Falls	42/17/pc	47/16/s	Ukiah	25/19/sn	39/22/pc
Lakeview	35/13/pc	44/15/s	Walla Walla	33/28/c	39/28/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
ANTHONY LAKES	15 14	A little p.m. snow	PHILLIPS LAKE	28 17	A little p.m. snow
MT. EMILY REC.	22 22	A little p.m. snow	BROWNLEE RES.	28 15	Cold
EAGLE CAP WILD.	18 6	Cold	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	23 18	A little p.m. snow
WALLOWA LAKE	21 15	Quite cold	MCKAY RESERVOIR	30 27	A little p.m. snow
THIEF VALLEY RES.	27 13	A bit of p.m. snow	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	28 22	A little p.m. snow