

Late brother's dying wish becomes one-sided effort



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

her children attend and seem to have a good time. I call or text her monthly, but I rarely receive a reply. She did text me happy birthday. I was OK with this until I heard from my nephew (Clark's son) that there was a memorial service for him. When I asked him who was there, he said everybody. It really hurt because I wasn't informed, nor were any of my siblings.

I want to respect Clark's wishes, but even before this, Liz didn't seem to respect my nuclear family. I don't know what to do going forward because I have such sad and angry feelings over not being invited to his memorial.

— CONFLICTED SIS IN THE EAST

DEAR SIS: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your brother. What you should do is call your former sister-in-law and ask her WHY you and your siblings were excluded from the memorial, which is a shocking oversight. Then, if her apology is not satisfactory, consider yourself relieved of that deathbed promise, which clearly hasn't been appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently in a restaurant with a friend who is deaf. (I can hear.) We were using American Sign Language to communicate. A group walked past us, saw we were using sign language

and assumed neither of us could hear. One of them told her friends we were deaf and dumb. When the server came to my table to take our order and they realized I could hear, they were visibly surprised.

The speaker did not appear to be embarrassed by what she had said. The woman's back was turned to my friend, so my friend was unaware of it. (Thank heavens, because my friend can read lips.) I didn't say anything at the time and let it go.

Should I have? I didn't because their table was near ours, and I was afraid the woman would have gotten ruder and made the whole dining experience bad. Should I

have said something to the manager or server and sat at another table? If the manager had said something to her, I doubt she would have admitted what she said. — NOT RIGHT IN OHIO

DEAR NOT RIGHT: You were right not to challenge the woman who said that. If she wasn't embarrassed when it turned out you could hear clearly, little you could say would have shamed her. There was nothing the restaurant manager could do about this woman's breach of etiquette. You, however, could have asked to change your table if you were no longer comfortable seated next to that party.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Beekeepers using tracking devices to protect precious hives

By DAISY NGUYEN
The Associated Press

WOODLAND, Calif. — For a few frenzied weeks, beekeepers from around the United States truck billions of honeybees to California to rent them to almond growers who need the insects to pollinate the state's most valuable crop.

But as almond trees start to bloom, blanketing entire valleys in white and pink flowers, so begin beehive thefts that have become so prevalent that beekeepers are now turning to GPS tracking devices, surveillance cameras and other anti-theft technology to protect their precious colonies.

Hive thefts have been reported elsewhere in the country. Most recently three hives containing about 60,000 bees taken from a grocery chain's garden in central Pennsylvania. They happen at a larger scale and uniquely in California this time of year because bees are most in demand during the largest pollination event in the world.

In the past few weeks, 1,036 beehives worth hundreds of thousands of dollars were reported stolen from orchards statewide, authorities said. The largest heist involved 384 beehives that were taken from a field in Mendocino County, prompting the state beekeepers association to offer a \$10,000 reward for information leading to their recovery.

"It's hard to articulate how it feels to care for your hives all year only to have them stolen from you," Claire Tauzer wrote on Facebook to spread the word about the reward. A day later, an anonymous tipster led authorities to recover most of the boxes and a forklift stolen from Tauzer's family business some 55 miles (88 kilometers) away, at a rural property in Yolo County. One suspect was arrested.

Investigators also found frames, the kinds used to hold the honeycomb, belonging to Helio Medina, another beekeeper who lost 282 hives a year ago.



Rich Pedroncelli/The Associated Press

Beekeeper Helio Medina displays a beehive frame outfitted with a GPS locator that will be installed in one of the beehives he rents out, in Woodland, California, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. As almond flowers start to bloom, beekeepers rent their hives out to farmers to pollinate California's most valuable crop, but with the blossoms come beehive thefts. Medina says last year he lost 282 hives estimated to be worth \$100,000, and is now installing GPS-enabled sensors to help find stolen hives in the future.

Medina said the theft devastated his apiary, so this year he placed GPS trackers inside the boxes. He also strapped cable locks around them and installed cameras nearby. As the almond bloom approached and the hives became most valuable, he drove around patrolling the orchards in the dark.

"We have to do what we can to protect ourselves. Nobody can help us," Medina said.

Thefts usually happen at night, when no one is in the orchard and the bees are back in their hives. The rustler is usually a beekeeper or someone familiar with the transportation of bees.

"More often than not, they steal to make money and leave the bees to die," said Rowdy Jay Freeman, a Butte County sheriff's detective who has been keeping track of hive thefts since 2013.

A tightening supply of bees and soaring pollination fees — jumping from less than \$50 to rent a hive two decades ago to as much as \$230 per hive this year — are likely motivating beekeepers to go rogue.

The demand for bees has steadily risen over the last 20 years as popularity of the healthy, crunchy nut turned California into the world's biggest almond producer. Accordingly, the amount of land used to grow almonds has more than doubled to an estimated 1.3 million acres.

Beekeepers have been keeping up with that growth by providing an ever-increasing proportion of the nation's available stock of hives. This year, a survey of commercial beekeepers estimated it will take 90% of honeybee colonies in the U.S. to pollinate all the almond orchards.

all the almond orchards.

"What that means is that beekeepers are coming from as far as New York and Florida, and to get them to come all that way, pollinator fees have to rise," said Brittney Goodrich, an agriculture economist at the University of California at Davis.

But bee populations are notoriously unstable due to a host of problems, including disease, loss of habitat and insecticides.

The drought that gripped Western states last summer also weakened colonies. The lack of rain ravaged wildflowers that provide the nectar that bees turn into honey. Beekeepers had to artificially supplement their diet with sugar solutions and pollen substitutes — and incur more costs.

For beekeepers, the loss of a hive means the loss of income from honey production and future pollination, not to mention the expense of managing the hive throughout the year. They say they hardly break even.

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weather

COLD					
TONIGHT Clear and frigid	FRI Sunny, but cold	SAT Mostly sunny and cold	SUN Showers of rain and snow	MON A couple of showers	
Baker City Comfort Index™ 0	29 4	28 10	31 16	40 21	
La Grande Comfort Index™ 0	7 35 16	0 35 24	0 38 25	0 44 31	
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 0	1 34 5	0 40 13	0 40 20	0 39 31	

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	24°	29°	26°
Low Tuesday	12°	13°	15°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	Trace	0.05	0.31
Month to date	Trace	0.57	1.42
Normal month to date	0.46	0.96	1.85
Year to date	0.38	1.84	5.35
Normal year to date	1.16	2.63	5.12

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 100° Zapata, Texas
Low: -27° Crosby, N.D.
Wettest: 3.78" Lexington, Tenn.

OREGON
High: 48° North Bend
Low: 6° Meacham
Wettest: 0.39" Rome

WEATHER HISTORY

Ice on the lower Susquehanna River in Maryland began to break on Feb. 24, 1852. During the preceding 40 days, an ice bridge across the river had been used for the crossing of 1,378 loaded freight cars.

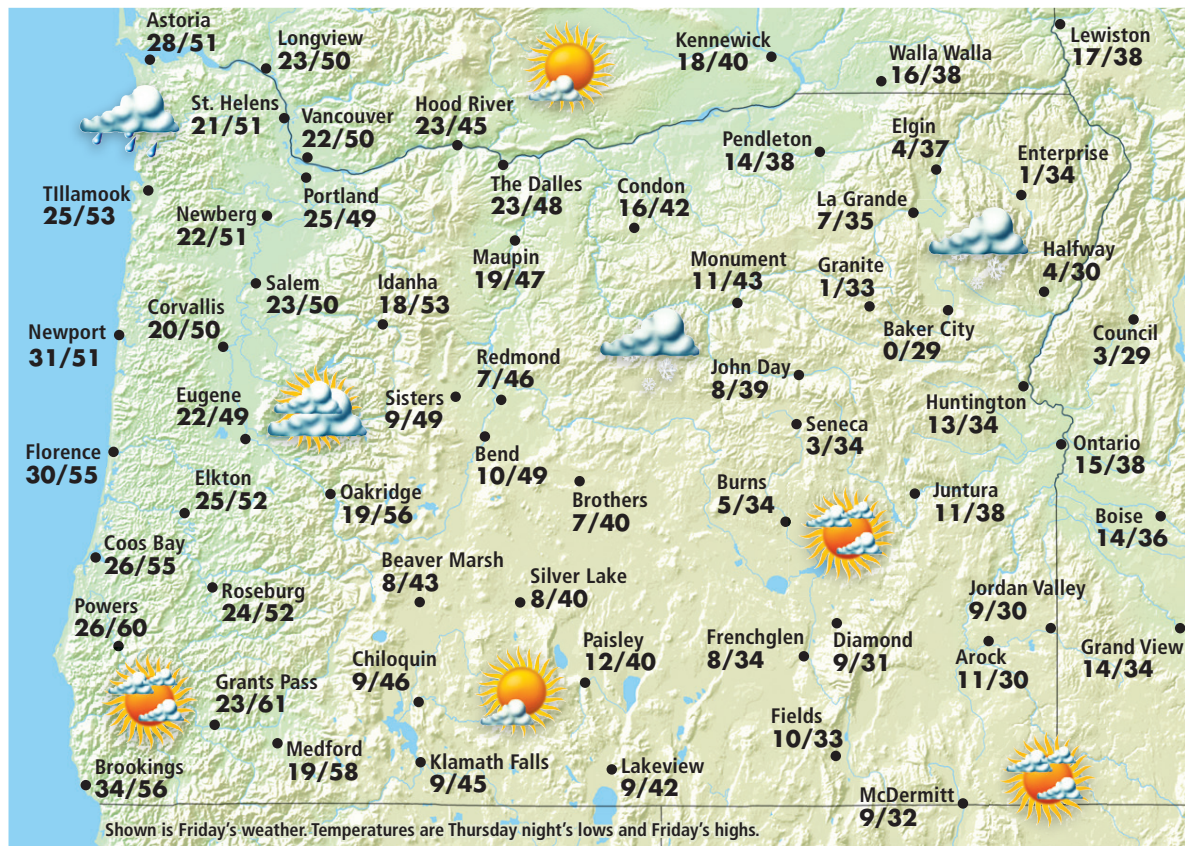
SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	6:39 a.m.	6:38 a.m.
Sunset	5:32 p.m.	5:34 p.m.
Moonrise	2:03 a.m.	3:17 a.m.
Moonset	10:46 a.m.	11:37 a.m.

MOON PHASES	New	First	Full	Last
	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	City	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	SAT. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	51/35/pc	50/39/r	Lewiston	38/20/s	46/26/s
Bend	49/18/s	51/24/pc	Longview	50/23/s	47/35/sh
Boise	36/13/s	41/19/s	Meacham	36/8/s	39/14/s
Brookings	56/39/s	55/44/c	Medford	58/21/s	57/33/pc
Burns	34/9/s	39/14/s	Newport	51/37/s	51/43/sh
Coos Bay	55/28/s	55/40/c	Olympia	47/23/s	47/34/sh
Corvallis	50/21/s	49/33/c	Ontario	38/17/s	41/18/s
Council	29/-1/s	30/7/s	Pasco	40/18/s	43/24/pc
Elgin	37/6/s	39/12/s	Pendleton	38/15/s	44/20/pc
Eugene	49/25/s	52/38/c	Portland	49/30/s	51/39/c
Hermiston	41/19/s	45/21/pc	Powers	60/31/s	57/43/c
Hood River	45/25/s	48/26/pc	Redmond	46/14/s	50/26/pc
Imnaha	39/16/s	46/28/s	Roseburg	52/28/pc	54/40/pc
John Day	39/15/s	47/25/s	Salem	50/23/s	51/36/c
Joseph	31/9/s	40/18/s	Spokane	31/14/s	36/22/c
Kennewick	40/19/s	43/21/pc	The Dalles	48/25/s	48/27/pc
Klamath Falls	45/8/s	51/24/s	Ukiah	37/8/s	46/20/pc
Lakeview	42/6/s	47/20/s	Walla Walla	38/20/s	41/25/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 Not as cold	22	13		PHILLIPS LAKE Sunny and cold	33	4	
MT. EMILY REC. Sunny, but cold	28	17		BROWNLEE RES. Cold with sunshine	35	8	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Turning colder	24	-1		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Sunny, but cold	32	10	
WALLOWA LAKE Sunny, but cold	31	9		MCKAY RESERVOIR Sunny, but cold	39	19	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Sunny, quite cold	29	4		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Sunny, but cold	35	16	

Veterans Appreciation Day

at Anthony Lakes

Complementary skiing for Veterans and their families

February 28, 2022

Details at AnthonyLakes.com