

Aging dog's care becomes obstacle in relationship



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a seven-year relationship with a beautiful woman I love and would do anything in the world for. I feel she would do the same for me. She has a dog, "Preston," who she loves and who has been with her since puppyhood. At 16, Preston is failing badly and is on his last legs. There is no doubt his time is coming.

We had planned on meeting my son and grandchildren for a family celebration after a seven-hour drive. Her plan was to accompany me, but now, because

of Preston's condition, she has changed her mind. I understand that. However, she's now angry that I am going alone.

I spend every day with her and go out of my way always to support her. She has no grandchildren, having lost her only daughter two decades ago. I will be gone for only a weekend and return in plenty of time to be with her afterward.

I haven't seen my three granddaughters in a year, and who knows when I will again. Should I feel guilty about leaving her and the dog? I am stuck in the middle here, and am going to upset her or my son's family no matter what I do. — **MAN IN THE MIDDLE**

DEAR MAN: You stated

that your significant other's only child died 20 years ago. It is possible that puppy Preston became like a child to her, and losing him is causing her to revisit the loss of her daughter. If there is any way to manage it, postpone the visit with your son and his family until later in the year, after Preston's passing, or have them come to you. If that's not possible, because it's only a weekend, go see your son and your grandkids but remain in contact with her from afar during the visit.

DEAR ABBY: My first husband was abusive, and I divorced him after less than four years of marriage. We had two daughters. In 2016, I remarried, this time to a loving, caring man. My

oldest daughter was my maid of honor. A year after our wedding, she married her soul mate. Her father and I, including our current spouses, paid for their reception.

Since 2017, this daughter has continually asked us for financial assistance. At first we helped, but after a terrible argument, we drew the line, and she decided to sever our relationship completely. She sees us occasionally during holidays and is cordial, but she doesn't call or text for my birthday or Mother's Day, which is very hurtful.

I don't know where to turn, except to pray. I don't want to be estranged anymore. I miss her terribly, but do not want to be financially taken advantage

of any longer. Any advice would help. — **HEARTBROKEN IN DELAWARE**

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Would you really like to receive birthday and Mother's Day greetings knowing they didn't come from the heart and that you were paying for them? This is what your daughter's actions have revealed. You have not caused this estrangement; she has, because you turned off the spigot.

I'm sure you are hurting, because that is what your daughter intends. Since prayer hasn't helped you cope with this, consult a licensed mental health professional, and I suspect you will have better results. You have my sympathy.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Alex Jones appears for questioning in Sandy Hook lawsuit

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Alex Jones was questioned Wednesday, April 6, by lawyers for families of Sandy Hook victims in Connecticut, where a judge had ordered the Infowars host to face mounting fines until he appeared for a deposition.

Relatives of some of the 20 children and six educators killed in the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, massacre sued Jones for defamation after he said the shooting never happened. A judge found Jones liable for damages and a trial on how much he should pay the families is set for August.

Jones, who lives in Texas, had defied a judge's order to appear for a deposition in the case, saying he was too ill. But Connecticut Judge Barbara Bellis said there wasn't enough evidence that Jones was too sick to attend and ordered him to come to Connecticut for questioning and pay escalating daily fines until he did so. Jones paid \$25,000 in fines for Friday and \$50,000 in fines for Monday, according to court records.

Jones said in a video on the Infowars website that the deposition began April 5 and was to continue April 6. He said in the video that the families' lawyers began the deposition by "demonizing" him for his questioning official versions of events.

"It's just totally insane



The Associated Press, File

Radio show host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones was being questioned Wednesday, April 6, 2022, by lawyers for families of Sandy Hook Elementary School victims in Connecticut, where a judge had ordered the Infowars host to face mounting fines until he appeared for a deposition.

to sit there and watch this happen and to watch them lick their lips and lick their chops and think we're going to finally shut Alex Jones down," Jones said. "These people want to put us in prison for our speech."

Jones' lawyer, Norman Pattis, said tempers flared at times during the deposition and much of the questioning was not related to the school shooting.

"I had the impression watching the attack on Mr.

Jones that this trial will be about something far greater than what happened at Sandy Hook," Pattis said on the video. "The trial's going to be about ordinary people's ability to say I'm not buying it, I want to raise questions, I want to draw my own conclusions."

The families' lawyer, Christopher Mattei, said Jones has declared his "entire deposition confidential even while he and his attorney conduct media

interviews discussing the details."

"Accordingly, we are unable to comment further at this time," Mattei said.

The deposition was held at the Bridgeport office of Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder. After it ended, Pattis filed a court document asking Bellis to return to Jones the \$75,000 in fees he paid, which the judge said he could request only after sitting for questioning. Bellis did not immediately rule.

Jones missed the originally scheduled deposition in the case on March 23 and 24 in Austin, Texas. He cited a health issue including vertigo that his doctors initially thought was a serious heart problem but turned out to be a sinus infection.

The plaintiffs have said they have been subjected to harassment and death threats from Jones' followers because of the hoax conspiracy promoted on his website show. Jones has since conceded the shooting did happen.

Gender-affirming medication banned for youth in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama lawmakers on Thursday, April 7, approved sweeping legislation to outlaw gender-affirming medications for trans kids and advanced separate legislation to prohibit classroom instruction on sexual and gender identity in early grades — a measure that critics have dubbed "Don't Say Gay."

The Alabama House of Representatives voted 66-28 for legislation to make it a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, for a doctor to prescribe puberty blockers or hormones or perform surgery to aid in the gender transition of people under age 19. The bill now goes to Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey for her signature as Alabama becomes the latest red state to debate legisla-

tion and policies aimed at trans youth.

Rep. Neil Rafferty, the only openly gay member of the Alabama Legislature, appeared to struggle to hold back his anger and maintain composure as lawmakers headed to the vote.

"This bill should not pass," Rafferty said. "This is wrong. Y'all sit here and campaign on family ... but what this bill is, is totally undermining family rights, health rights and access to health care."

Republican Rep. Wes Allen, of Troy, sponsor of the House version of the bill, argued during debate that transgender youth are not old enough to make decisions about gender-affirming medication.

"Their brains are not developed to make the decisions long term about what these medications and surgeries do to their body," he said.

Rep. Chris England, who also serves as chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, said the measure targets already vulnerable children and essentially tells them they are not welcome in Alabama.

"You're saying this is about children. It's not. What it is about is scoring political points and using those children as collateral damage," England said.

The bill would also require school counselors, nurses and others to tell parents if a child discloses they believe they are transgender.

weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A bit of snow late	Morning snow showers	Mainly cloudy, a shower	Snow showers	Mostly cloudy and chilly
Baker City	23	43 24	43 25	42 20	47 24
<small>Comfort Index™</small>	0	0	0	0	0
La Grande	27	41 22	41 27	45 24	48 28
<small>Comfort Index™</small>	0	0	0	0	3
Enterprise	24	36 18	39 22	39 21	43 28
<small>Comfort Index™</small>	0	0	0	0	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 Thursday	68°	70°	73°
Low Thursday	19°	28°	26°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.04	0.08	0.80
Normal month to date	0.19	0.40	0.56
Year to date	0.71	2.46	7.99
Normal year to date	2.25	5.02	8.42

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY			
Lowest relative humidity		60%	
Afternoon wind	WNW	at 6 to 12 mph	
Hours of sunshine		4.5	
Evapotranspiration		0.06	

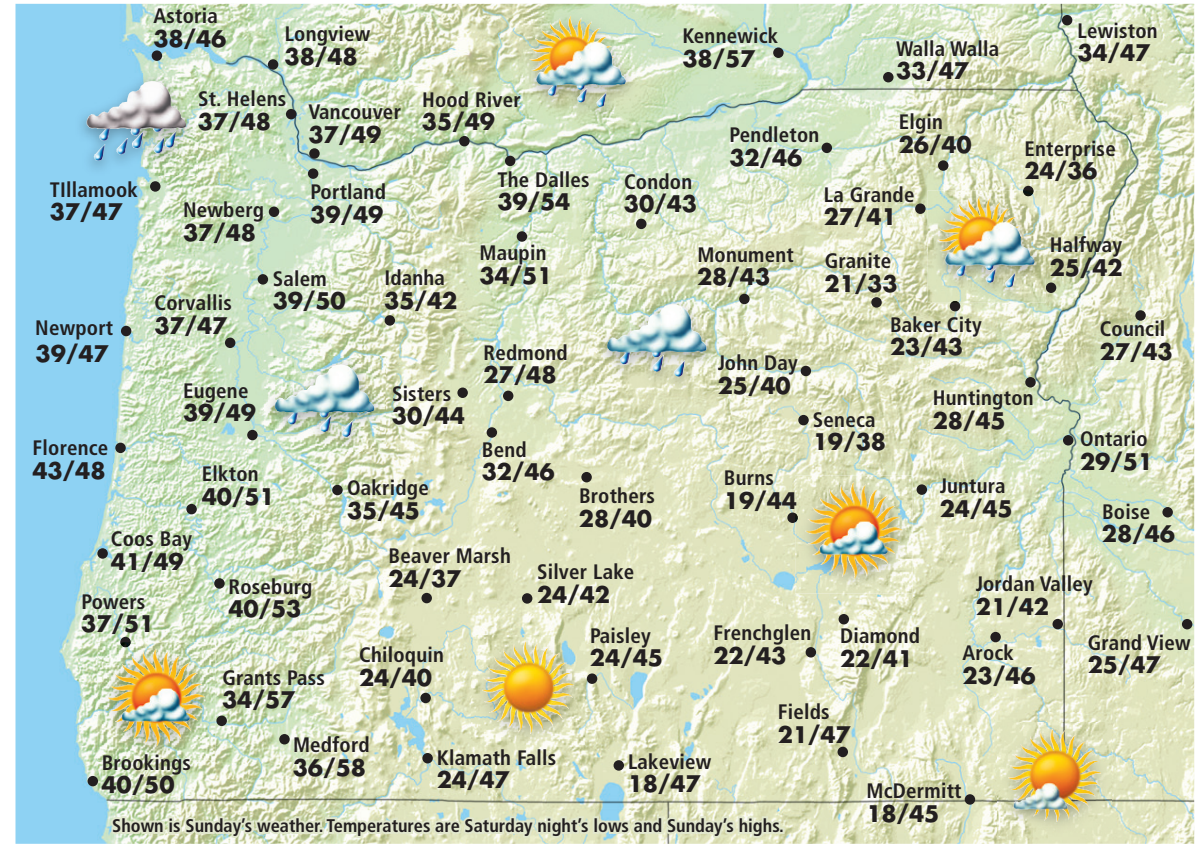
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)			
Phillips Reservoir	10%	of capacity	
Unity Reservoir	69%	of capacity	
Owyhee Reservoir	42%	of capacity	
McKay Reservoir	73%	of capacity	
Wallowa Lake	39%	of capacity	
Thief Valley Reservoir	95%	of capacity	
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	3290	cfs	
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1	cfs	
Burnt River near Unity	4	cfs	
Umatilla River near Gibbon	318	cfs	
Minam River at Minam	319	cfs	
Powder River near Richland	31	cfs	

THURSDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 103°	Santa Ana, Calif.	
	Low: -4°	Peter Sinks, Utah	
	Wettest: 2.90"	Jacksonville, Fla.	
OREGON	High: 86°	Roseburg	
	Low: 19°	Baker City	
	Wettest: none		

WEATHER HISTORY			
On April 9, 1947, a tornado cut a 221-mile path through Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The storm took 169 lives and caused more than \$10 million in damage.			
SUN & MOON			
	SAT.	SUN.	
Sunrise	6:18 a.m.	6:16 a.m.	
Sunset	7:30 p.m.	7:32 p.m.	
Moonrise	11:38 a.m.	12:42 p.m.	
Moonset	3:15 a.m.	3:53 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
Full	Last	New	First
Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 8

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY			
City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Astoria	46/35/r	48/38/c	Lewiston	47/33/sh	49/34/c	A bit of snow	A little snow
Bend	46/22/sn	39/26/r	Longview	48/30/r	52/33/c	16 8	36 17
Boise	46/31/sf	46/30/pc	Meacham	37/23/sf	41/26/c	26 20	45 23
Brookings	50/37/c	50/39/r	Newport	58/38/c	50/34/c	A little snow	A shower or two
Burns	44/23/c	41/21/pc	Medford	47/36/r	46/39/c	21 9	32 18
Coos Bay	49/36/r	49/40/r	Olympia	48/30/sh	49/34/sh	34 19	44 29
Corvallis	47/35/r	48/32/r	Ontario	51/32/sf	51/35/pc	43 24	41 22
Council Bluffs	43/21/c	41/23/sf	Pasco	56/34/r	54/35/c	A bit of snow	A bit of a.m. snow
Elgin	40/23/sf	42/25/sf	Pendleton	46/31/sf	52/30/c	21 9	32 18
Eugene	49/35/r	48/34/sn	Portland	49/36/r	50/38/c	34 19	44 29
Hermiston	53/33/r	55/32/c	Powers	51/35/r	47/38/r	43 24	41 22
Hood River	49/35/r	53/37/sh	Redmond	48/24/sn	43/24/sf	26 20	45 23
Imnaha	41/27/c	42/22/c	Roseburg	53/36/r	48/37/sh	21 9	32 18
John Day	40/19/sn	41/22/pc	Salem	50/35/r	50/35/c	34 19	44 29
Joseph	34/19/sn	38/24/sn	Spokane	44/30/c	46/29/sh	43 24	41 22
Kennewick	57/34/r	58/35/c	The Dalles	54/39/pc	55/36/c	21 9	32 18
Klamath Falls	47/24/sn	36/23/sn	Ukiah	37/24/sf	39/22/r	34 19	44 29
Lakeview	47/22/c	35/21/sn	Walla Walla	47/34/pc	48/33/c	43 24	41 22

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