

Family's dismissal of career no longer a joke



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I graduated from college with a degree in a niche field. In my graduating class of nearly 7,000, there were only four of us with this specific degree. I now have a career in the field I majored in. I love what I do and take pride in it. The problem is my family. For whatever reason, my parents and siblings don't seem to want to remember what I do. When people back home ask what I'm up to, they come up with vague or dismissive answers. When they tell me about it

later, they seem to think it's funny. The first few times I could laugh about it too, but this has been going on for years. Their one-sided running gag has grown old. I don't care that they're not interested in what I do, but I feel humiliated and hurt when they act so dismissive of it to other people. It happened again a few days ago, while I was out with my family at an event. A family member intentionally messed up the name of my workplace multiple times (even after I had corrected him) while talking to a volunteer.

Although I managed to step in, it's still weighing on me. I have tried explaining what I do numerous times. It's not confusing. I have even suggested

they use broader alternatives (if they would say I'm an ecologist, I would be thrilled). Nothing has changed. I'm left wondering if this runs deeper than a joke and they don't actually take me seriously. Do I need to be more blunt?

Should I tell them this has crossed the line from funny to hurtful? Or am I blowing this out of proportion? — **HURT IN THE WEST**

DEAR HURT: You may be putting more energy into this than it deserves. You know the importance of the work you do. Your relative(s) may be jealous of your accomplishments or so intellectually limited that they can't remember the word "ecologist." If you are present when this happens, feel free to correct the mis-

take as you did, but do it with humor. **DEAR ABBY:** Please share some thoughts about answering the phone on speaker. My lifelong friend does this. Sometimes I'm aware her husband is in the room. Recently, though, we were on speaker phone when she told me she was going to the beauty salon.

When the call connected to her vehicle, I assumed she was by herself. We continued our very personal conversation (I was doing the talking) until she got to her destination. That's when she told me they had arrived. I didn't realize anyone else was in the car.

Am I wrong to be upset that she allowed me to do all the talking while her husband listened in without my knowl-

edge? She could have easily switched from a speaker to a private call, considering the nature of the discussion. — **MAD IN MISSOURI**

DEAR MAD: You're not wrong to be upset. I would be, too. If your friend understood that it was supposed to be a confidential conversation, she should have told you she wasn't alone or ended the call. Tell her this made you feel invaded and, if you plan to continue your relationship with her, set some ground rules for future phone conversations.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Lightning kills 1 at remote Wyoming outdoors educator event

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — A lightning strike at an outdoors educator course in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming killed one student and injured another, officials said Thursday, Aug. 4.

The group with the National Outdoor Leadership School was just days into their trip and had set up camp near Enos Lake, south of Yellowstone National Park, when a thunderstorm moved into the area Tuesday evening.

John D. Murphy, 22, of Boston, died of cardiac arrest because of the lightning strike, Teton County Coroner Brent Blue said. Blue did not know if the lightning struck Murphy directly or passed through something else to him.

The injured student was flown to an Idaho hospital for treatment and released Aug. 3, Shana Tarter, the school's associate director for wilderness medicine, told the Jackson Hole News & Guide.

Nine other students, three instructors and two search and rescue members stayed the night in the back country after the lightning strike, school officials said.

Two people at the course who didn't think they were capable of doing the 12-mile (19-kilometer) hike from the lake to the trailhead were flown out by helicopter Wednesday morning and the rest of the group hiked out, said Matt Hansen with Teton County Search and Rescue.

National Outdoor Leadership School President Terry Watson in a statement called the lightning strike a "a very sad day" for the school, its students and their families.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the family of our student who passed away on this course and are focused on supporting



Ryan Dorgan/Jackson Hole Daily, File

Lightning from a summer storm illuminates the sky over the Teton Range in August 2020 in Grand Teton National Park. A camper was killed by lightning Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022, near Enos Lake in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

their family through its difficult process," she said.

The nonprofit global wilderness school based in Lander, Wyoming, teaches students to become outdoors educators. More than 330,000 students have graduated and there have been 13 deaths at school events during its 57-year history, the school said.

A 20-year-old man training with the school in 2011 fell down a 300-foot ravine into a river while backpacking in India during rainy conditions.

His mother filed a lawsuit against the school, but a Wyo-

oming judge ruled that the contract the man signed releasing the school from liability prevented his survivors from suing the school.

Troopers: Drunk woman drove golf cart on highway

TITUSVILLE, Fla. — A woman with an open bottle of Jack Daniel's whiskey in a bag was arrested for driving a golf cart on Florida's busiest interstate while drunk, according to an arrest report.

The 58-year-old woman was arrested Saturday, July 30, on the shoulder of Interstate 95.

She is now facing misdemeanor charges of disorderly intoxication in a public place and resisting an officer without violence.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, a semitruck driver spotted the woman driving in the golf cart in the center lane of Interstate 95 in Brevard County, which is the heart of Florida's Space Coast. The truck driver "advised she observed the driver of the golf cart passing out while driving," the report said.

The truck driver used her semi to steer the golf cart to the

shoulder of the interstate, troopers said.

Once on the shoulder, the truck driver grabbed the keys to the golf cart as the woman tried to drive away. Once troopers arrived at the scene, the woman started arguing with them and insisted she needed her bag. Inside the bag, troopers found an open bottle of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Fire Whiskey, authorities said.

Interstate 95, which stretches up and down the East Coast, is Florida's busiest interstate highway, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

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weather

		HOT	HOT	
TONIGHT Clear and cool	SUN Sunny and hot	MON Sunny and very hot	TUE Very hot with some sun	WED A thunderstorm around
Baker City Comfort Index™ 9	39 7	46 5	97 5	54 5
La Grande Comfort Index™ 8	45 5	95 2	102 2	58 4
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 9	46 5	93 2	100 2	62 2
	51	51	62	55

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	90°	89°	88°
Low Thursday	49°	54°	52°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.00	Trace
Normal month to date	0.06	0.08	0.08
Year to date	4.47	8.98	17.76
Normal year to date	6.05	10.74	15.31

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity	15%
Afternoon wind	NE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	13.2
Evapotranspiration	0.28

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	12% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	61% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	26% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	83% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	3% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	52% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	727 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	81 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	141 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	53 cfs
Minam River at Minam	180 cfs
Powder River near Richland	27 cfs

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 111° Rio Grande Village, Texas
Low: 35° Yellowstone N.P., Wyo.
Wettest: 3.88" Goshen, Ind.

OREGON

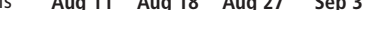
High: 101° Rome
Low: 44° Meacham
Wettest: 0.15" Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

A barrage of hail on Aug. 6, 1979, shelled the Crane Ammunition Depot, 20 miles southwest of Bloomington, Ind. The hailstones were 2 inches in diameter.

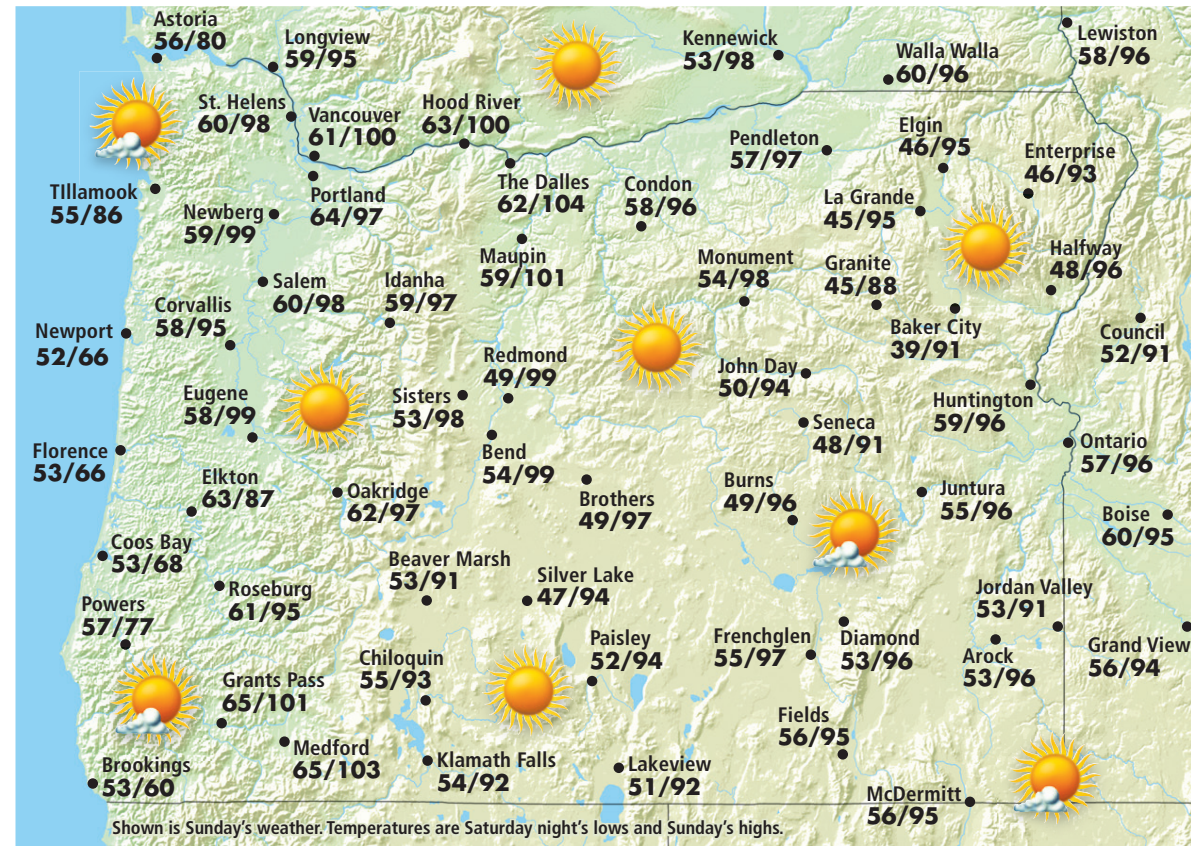
SUN & MOON

SAT.		SUN.	
Sunrise	5:43 a.m.	Sunrise	5:44 a.m.
Sunset	8:13 p.m.	Sunset	8:12 p.m.
Moonrise	3:32 p.m.	Moonrise	4:50 p.m.
Moonset	none	Moonset	12:30 a.m.



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	80/55/s	70/56/pc	Lewiston	96/61/s	102/68/s
Bend	99/57/s	98/64/pc	Longview	95/60/s	90/60/s
Boise	95/65/s	100/75/s	Meacham	93/47/s	99/56/s
Brookings	60/53/c	61/52/c	Medford	103/67/s	100/64/s
Burns	96/58/s	98/61/s	Newport	66/52/pc	61/53/c
Coos Bay	68/55/pc	67/55/c	Olympia	93/55/s	92/56/s
Corvallis	95/56/s	88/57/s	Ontario	96/58/s	101/67/s
Council	91/55/s	99/62/s	Pasco	98/57/s	103/65/s
Elgin	95/52/s	102/60/s	Pendleton	97/63/s	105/69/s
Eugene	99/58/s	89/57/s	Portland	97/65/s	94/64/s
Hermiston	100/59/s	105/64/s	Powers	77/55/s	74/57/pc
Hood River	100/70/s	102/71/pc	Redmond	99/55/s	100/62/pc
Imnaha	94/61/s	102/67/s	Roseburg	95/62/s	90/62/s
John Day	94/58/s	100/65/s	Salem	98/61/s	94/60/s
Joseph	92/54/s	99/64/s	Spokane	92/60/s	96/64/s
Kennewick	98/56/s	103/66/s	The Dalles	104/67/s	105/71/s
Klamath Falls	92/57/s	93/57/s	Ukiah	90/48/s	97/56/s
Lakeview	92/54/s	93/55/s	Walla Walla	96/67/s	103/73/s

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

ANTHONY LAKES Sunny and nice	73 48		PHILLIPS LAKE Sunny and warmer	89 50	
MT. EMILY REC. Plenty of sunshine	83 48		BROWNLEE RES. Plenty of sunshine	96 56	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Sunny and warmer	79 46		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Sunny and warmer	88 39	
WALLOWA LAKE Sunny and hot	92 54		MCKAY RESERVOIR Sunny and warm	96 63	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Plenty of sun	91 46		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Sunny and hot	95 48	