

Man’s private mailbox leads wife to question finances

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for more than 40 years. Since my husband retired a couple of years ago, it has come to my attention that he has been getting mail at a separate private mailbox. I don't see a good reason for this, and it is weighing on me heavily.

I don't want to make a big deal out of it, but I'm concerned. He sees all our bills and evidently pays other ones I'm not aware of. Because of this, I feel like a second-class citizen who is too stupid to know all the ins and outs of our finances.

Because I don't see anything he buys or pays for, I remain in the dark. Conversely, he sees where every penny I spend goes. It's not that he isn't generous; I lack for nothing. It's that he is secretive. (I don't think he is into porn or something else nefarious.)

At this stage in my marriage, have you any advice for me? If I confront him, I'm not confident he would give me all the information. Am I being too demanding? Should I let sleeping dogs lie?

—IN THE DARK IN THE NORTHWEST
DEAR IN THE DARK: Unless you want to become like so many unfortunate women whose husbands keep the details of their finances from “the little woman,” you will tell your husband you want to know how much money you both have, how it is invested and where it goes. If he is resistant, explain that women usually outlive their husbands, and you do not want to be caught flat-footed in addition to grieving in the event of his demise. If your marriage is as strong as you describe, he should recognize the wisdom in it. Right now the mailbox is the least of your worries. Save that conversation for another time.

DEAR ABBY: I recently got engaged, and my wedding is a year and a half away. My best friend, “Crystal,” is going to be my maid of honor.

I know everyone has different insecurities, so I'm letting my bridesmaids choose their own dresses as long as they are the right color. However, I'm worried about Crystal and her dress. She's larger than the other girls. I know she will want to lose weight for the wedding. She has been saying she wants to lose weight for some time. Unfortunately, she isn't committed, and she stress eats.

I was thinking about having her come with

me and buying a dress for her. While I'm trying to keep the dresses cheap, I know they can be expensive. Should I order the size Crystal thinks she will get down to? Current size? Bigger? I know it's usually better to order up because it's easier to make dresses smaller than larger. I don't know what to do and don't want to insult her.

—BAFFLED BRIDE

DEAR BAFFLED BRIDE: The responsibility for choosing a dress that fits should be Crystal's, not yours. If you insert yourself into the process, and the dress is too small by the time the wedding rolls around, the blame may fall on you. If you suggest she buy something (in the right color) closer to the date of the wedding, the chances are better that it will fit.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 27-year-old son, “Bobby.” He was living with me and his grandma, and two years ago he got a puppy, which I took care of potty-trained and fed. “Champ” even slept with me. Needless to say, he became a family dog, and my 83-year-old mom became quite attached to him.

Bobby started dating a gal. After four months, they decided to move in together, and he took Champ with him. My mom has been crying every day for our pet.

Because they both work, they leave Champ home alone all day, and he howls until they get home. I asked Bobby if we could have visitation once a week because we miss Champ so much. His girlfriend got involved and told me Champ is their dog and they are not sharing him. I was very upset since he was our dog for two years.

I no longer have a relationship with my son over the dog and girlfriend, and my mother has a broken heart. Am I wrong here?

—CANINE WAR IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WAR: You weren't wrong to be upset. Your mistake was letting the disagreement cause an estrangement from your son. If Champ's incessant howling causes a problem for Bobby's neighbors, he and his girlfriend might be receptive to letting you and Grandma take him while they are working. However, if they cannot see the logic, consider adopting a rescue dog to ease your mother's aching heart and give her something else to love other than Champ.

How birdwatchers can help threatened bird populations

By Katherine Roth
The Associated Press

The types of birds coming through your neighborhood are probably changing, and so is the timing of their migrations. Birdwatchers noticing these differences are on the front line in figuring out how climate change and more severe weather events are putting stress on bird populations.

“Birders have to be much more alert to when birds are coming through than they used to be, since birds may be coming through much earlier or later than they used to,” says John Rowden, director of community conservation at the National Audubon Society.

Birdwatchers are increasingly noticing unfamiliar birds normally found elsewhere, he says, and are seeing fewer of the birds they'd taken for granted.

“People are shocked when I say it. But just because we've seen these birds (year after year) doesn't mean they'll always be there. They are declining in numbers because we're throwing so many things at them, so we need to do what we can to help them,” says Rowden.

At least 314 species of American birds are expected to lose 50 percent or more of their range by the end of the century, and have been listed by the Audubon Society as climate-threatened or endangered, Rowden says.

A United Nations science report issued Monday says 1 million species of plants and animals are at risk of going extinct. Scientists issuing the report in Paris blamed

development that has led to loss of habitat, climate change, overfishing, pollution and invasive species.

Conservationists say there are a few easy steps people can take to help struggling bird populations, like planting native species, even in window boxes or patio containers, to encourage the native insects upon which birds depend, particularly for feeding their young.

The Audubon Society's Plants for Birds (www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds) program encourages people to plant native plants; they also have a page (<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>) where you can type in your zip code to find out which plants will help birds in your area, and where to find those native plants and seeds locally.

During spring and fall migration seasons, people are encouraged to help migrating birds by minimizing outdoor lighting and covering reflective surfaces like large windows. Make indoor plants less visible to passing birds.

Birdwatchers can also help efforts to save the birds by tracking what they see on ebird.org, a national online data base run by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

“We also have a community science program called Climate Watch , which tries to collect data on how bird ranges are changing. It asks people to go out and do point counts of certain species, and runs from May 15 to June 15. That's something very helpful that

birders can participate in,” says Rowden. (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>)

“Birders love to see the same birds year after year, and keep track of when they are they going to come back each year during migration. Now, the timing may change and the windows may shift. You've got to be on the ball to spot them,” he says.

“It's helpful if communities can pitch in to help,” he adds.

Geoff LeBaron, director of the Christmas Bird Count at the National Audubon Society, says he has seen the effects of climate change firsthand.

“I've been a birder since I was a little kid,” he says. “It's clear that climate change is affecting and will continue to affect birds on a global scale, and it's a question of whether or not they can adapt to what the climate is throwing at them.”

Record droughts, floods, hurricanes and more are having a dramatic impact, he says.

“Hurricanes tend to happen during migration season and they happen initially over water, so they have a big effect on sea birds and can send them thousands of miles off track. Birdwatchers spot them when they get displaced over land.”

Most at risk from climate catastrophes are sea birds and grasslands birds, experts say. Birds known as aerial insectivores, like swifts and nighthawks, are also at risk because the insects they depend on are getting harder to find.

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**TONIGHT**
Patchy clouds

**THU**
Sunny and pleasant

**FRI**
Sunny and warm

**SAT**
Sunny and very warm

**SUN**
Mostly sunny and warm

Baker City	38	72	36	76	40	82	44	83	46
Comfort Index™	10	10	9	6	6	6	6	6	6
La Grande	42	71	39	76	45	81	49	81	49
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	6	6	6	6	6	6
Enterprise	37	67	38	74	43	79	46	78	48
Comfort Index™	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8

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 Monday	74°	73°	79°
Low Monday	44°	40°	38°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Monday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.25	0.37	0.43
Year to date	4.47	7.22	16.92
Normal year to date	3.30	6.18	10.12

MONDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 95°	Presidio, Texas
Low: 19°	Rolla, N.D.

OREGON

High: 84°	Medford
Low: 26°	Sisters
Wettest: Trace	Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

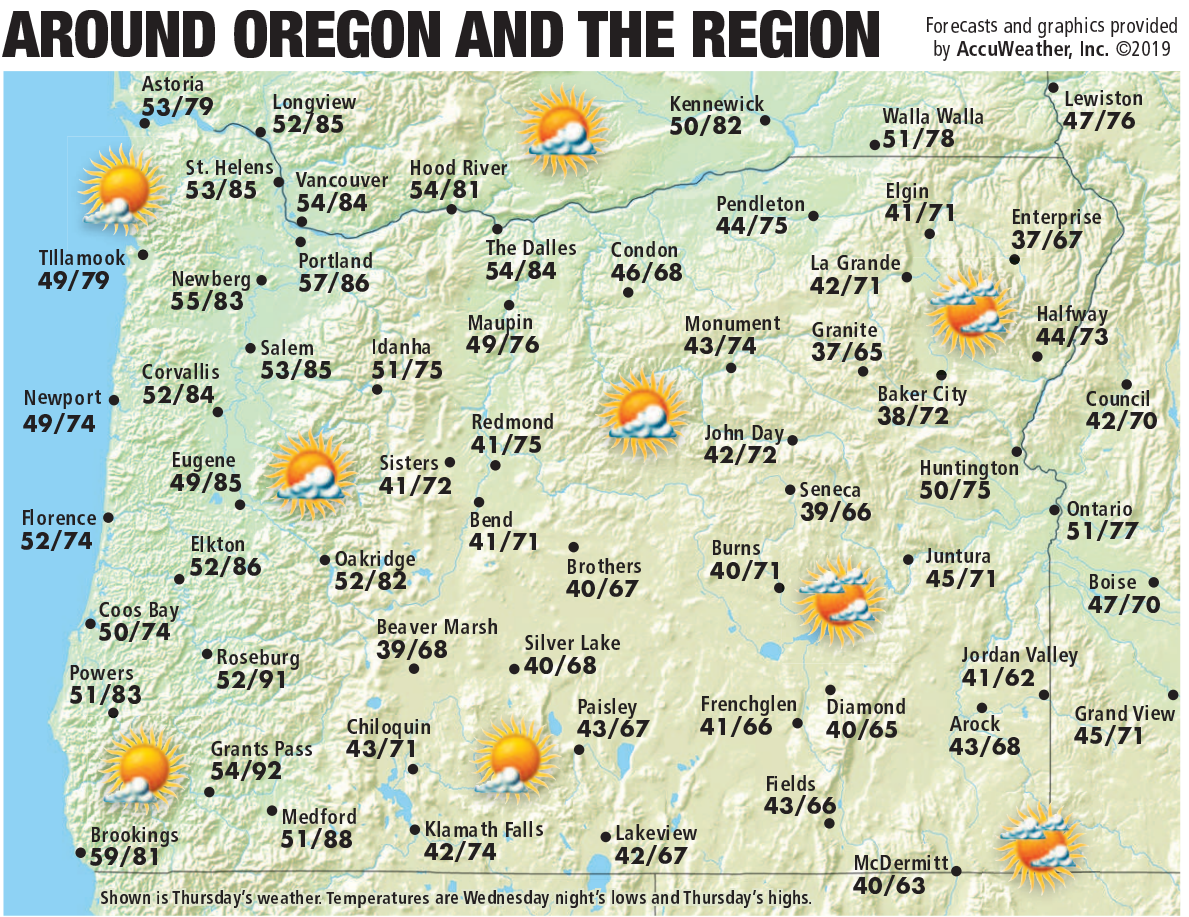
A rare late-season snowstorm on this date in 1803 ruined many of Philadelphia's shade trees. Snow accumulated from Indiana to New England during the storm's two-day trek.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	5:32 a.m.	5:30 a.m.
Sunset	8:07 p.m.	8:08 p.m.
Moonrise	8:29 a.m.	9:26 a.m.
Moonset	none	12:18 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
			
May 11	May 18	May 26	Jun 3



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY			
THU.		FRI.		THU.		FRI.	
City	Hi/Low	City	Hi/Low	City	Hi/Low	City	Hi/Low
Astoria	79/54/s	Lewiston	76/47/s	ANTHONY LAKES	Sunny	PHILLIPS LAKE	Sunshine
Bend	71/37/s	Longview	85/51/s	43	26	67	35
Boise	70/45/s	Mecham	68/37/s	MT. EMILY REC.	Sunshine	BROWNLEE RES.	Mostly sunny; nice
Brookings	81/53/s	Medford	88/51/s	57	37	74	40
Burns	71/38/s	Newport	74/54/s	EAGLE CAP WILD.	Sunlit and breezy	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Sunshine
Coos Bay	74/50/s	Olympia	84/48/pc	52	25	65	32
Corvallis	84/51/s	Ontario	77/45/s	WALLOWA LAKE	Sunny and pleasant	MCKAY RESERVOIR	Sunny and pleasant
Council	70/38/s	Pasco	83/48/s	67	35	74	43
Elgin	71/38/s	Pendleton	75/45/s	THIEF VALLEY RES.	Sunny and warm	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Sunny and pleasant
Eugene	85/48/s	Portland	86/57/s	72	36	71	39
Hermiston	81/44/s	Powers	83/50/s				
Hood River	81/52/s	Redmond	75/36/s				
Imnaha	72/39/s	Roseburg	91/52/s				
John Day	72/41/s	Salem	85/51/s				
Joseph	67/35/s	Spokane	72/50/s				
Kennewick	82/45/s	The Dalles	84/52/s				
Klamath Falls	76/40/s	Ukiah	68/34/s				
Lakeview	67/38/s	Wall a Walla	78/50/s				

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



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