

Video dinner parties help distant family stay close

DEAR ABBY: May I share with you a way my husband and I are staying connected? My daughter came up with the idea. She and her daughter live a good distance from us. She decided the four of us should have a virtual dinner together three times a week.

We move our dining chairs together and position a tablet opposite us so we are visible on the screen. They do the same. We use FaceTime (Skype or a similar app would also work) to connect online. We set dinner on the table, say grace together and proceed to eat — all the while talking, joking and laughing as if we were in each other’s presence.

Abby, I can’t tell you how much this has alleviated the feelings of



DEAR ABBY

isolation. We look forward to it all day. We phone, text and email at other times, as well, but these dinners together are a very special hour or more that give us a feeling of still being connected. It’s a difficult time right now, but this is such a simple thing. I bless my amazing and wonderful daughter every day for thinking of it.

— STAYING CLOSE

DEAR STAYING CLOSE: For those who, because of travel restrictions or financial constraints, cannot be together in person, this is a tradition that could continue well after the quarantine has lifted.

I, too, bless your amazing and wonderful daughter for coming up with the idea and you for sharing

it. Salut and bon appetit!

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have about a dozen nieces and nephews on each side of our family. As each of them has married, we have given them generous gifts.

My wife and I have two adult children. When our daughter was married 10 years ago, she had a big reception, with all the best of everything. Our son chose to elope last year. He had a small ceremony when they returned — just parents and grandparents.

My wife is now very upset that no one has acknowledged the wedding with even a card — let alone a gift. Should we bring this up to our families? Is it customary to give gifts only when there is a traditional ceremony and reception?

— EMPTY-HANDED

DEAR EMPTY-HANDED: I can see why your wife is upset. Because you have been so generous with your family members when they were married, it would have been thoughtful had they reciprocated with your son. However, the rule of etiquette is that gifts are required when someone accepts a wedding invitation, and your son chose to elope instead of having one, which may explain the lack of response from your relatives.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is wiggling out because I allow our two cats and our dog to lick mixing bowls and dinner plates before I put them in the dishwasher.

We have an active, healthy family, with no allergies, chronic health problems or obesity. Our house is clean, although I

wouldn’t eat off my floors. Shoes are left in the laundry room. We have never even had a case of flu, thanks to flu shots, common sense and probably some luck.

Our dishwasher is set to do a long wash with a heated drying cycle. Am I terrible? I fail to see the problem, but she thinks I’m liable to poison the kids.

— WONDERING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WONDERING: You are not going to poison the kids, yourself or her son, but you could cause problems for your feline family members if they happen to eat any garlic or onions. That said, you may give your mother-in-law a coronary if you continue letting her see what you have been doing. So, in the interest of family harmony, when she’s around, cut it out.

Segway, popular with police but not the public, hits the brakes

By Matt Ott and Cathy Bussewitz
Associated Press

BEDFORD, N.H. — Segway, which boldly claimed its two-wheeled personal transporter would revolutionize the way people get around, is ending production of its namesake vehicle.

The Segway PT, popular with tourists and police officers but perhaps better known for its high-profile crashes, will be retired on July 15, the company said in a statement.

Within its first decade, the Segway PT became a staple in security and law enforcement, viewed as an effective and efficient personal vehicle,” said Judy Cai, Segway president, in a statement, noting that in the past decade it gained popularity with vacationers in major cities in North America, Europe, Asia, South America, and the Middle East.

But the Segway, which carries a standing pas-

senger on a wide platform, accounted for less than 1.5% of the company’s revenue last year. The company said 21 employees will be laid off, another 12 employees will stay on for two months to a year and five will remain at the Bedford, New Hampshire facility.

“This decision was not made lightly, and while the current global pandemic did impact sales and production, it was not a deciding factor in our decision,” Cai said.

The transportation revolution that inventor Dean Kamen envisioned when he founded the company in 1999 never took off.

The Segway’s original price tag of around \$5,000 was a hurdle for many customers. It also was challenging to ride because the rider had to be balanced at a specific angle for the vehicle to move forward. If the rider’s weight shifted too much in any direction, it could easily spin out of



Photo by Sue Ogrocki/AP

In this May 1 photo, a security guard wearing a mask and riding a Segway patrols inside Penn Square Mall as the mall reopens in Oklahoma City. Segway says it will end production of its namesake two-wheeled balancing personal transporter, popular with tourists and police officers but perhaps best known for its high-profile crashes.

“What did they think the market was when they built this, when they designed it?” asked Maryann Keller, principal at Maryann Keller & Associates. “My impres-

Ten months after buying the company in 2009, British self-made millionaire Jim Heselden died after the Segway he was riding careened off a 30-foot cliff not far from his country estate north of London. He was 62 years old.

In 2003, President George W. Bush avoided injury after tumbling off a Segway at his parents’ summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

A cameraman riding a Segway ran over Usain Bolt in 2015 as the Jamaican sprinter did a victory lap after winning a 200-meter race in Beijing. Bolt wasn’t injured and later joked about the incident.

In 2017, Segway got into the scooter business, just as the light, inexpensive and easy-to-ride two-wheelers took over urban streets. Riders took 38.5 million trips on shared electric scooters in 2018, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

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weather

TONIGHT

Mainly clear

FRI

Mostly sunny

SAT

Partly sunny; not as warm

SUN

Mostly cloudy, a shower

MON

Chance of a thunderstorm

Baker City

50

Comfort Index™ 6

La Grande

55

Comfort Index™ 7

Enterprise

50

Comfort Index™ 8

91

56

4

88

58

5

84

53

4

83

48

8

78

49

9

76

43

9

66

45

6

62

49

3

58

45

5

65

45

6

60

48

6

59

44

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 Tuesday	93°	90°	99°
Low Tuesday	48°	49°	49°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.48	1.84	1.88
Normal month to date	0.97	1.27	1.43
Year to date	2.58	12.80	24.76
Normal year to date	5.52	9.11	13.43

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 120° Death Valley, Calif.

Low: 33° West Yellowstone, Mont.

Wettest: 4.00" Abbeville, La.

OREGON

High: 101° Medford

Low: 44° Meacham

Wettest: none

WEATHER HISTORY

On June 25, 1988, extreme heat baked the Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region. Cleveland, Ohio, hit 104 degrees, and Ft. Wayne, Ind., rose to 106 -- both record high temperatures for these cities.

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	30%
Afternoon wind	NW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	10.8
Evapotranspiration	0.28

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	59% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	90% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	76% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	100% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	71% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	105% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	6620 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	166 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	88 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	112 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1880 cfs
Powder River near Richland	243 cfs

SUN & MOON

THU.

FRI.

Sunrise

5:06 a.m.

5:06 a.m.

Sunset

8:45 p.m.

8:45 p.m.

Moonrise

9:44 a.m.

10:59 a.m.

Moonset

none

12:14 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First

Full

Last

New

Jun 28

Jul 4

Jul 12

Jul 20

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday night's lows and Friday's highs.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	69/57/pc	64/53/c	Lewiston	92/67/s	84/58/c
Bend	92/54/s	80/44/pc	Longview	82/58/s	67/53/pc
Boise	92/64/s	89/57/pc	Meacham	86/55/s	77/47/pc
Brookings	80/58/s	73/52/s	Medford	98/63/s	86/55/pc
Burns	93/57/s	87/47/pc	Newport	64/52/s	60/49/c
Coos Bay	69/56/s	64/52/c	Olympia	80/56/s	67/50/pc
Corvallis	89/57/s	75/52/pc	Ontario	96/66/s	93/60/pc
Council	88/56/s	83/49/pc	Pasco	99/66/s	90/57/pc
Elgin	88/57/s	78/49/pc	Pendleton	95/64/s	84/53/pc
Eugene	88/57/s	77/51/pc	Portland	85/62/s	71/56/pc
Hermiston	99/69/s	87/56/pc	Powers	85/59/s	71/51/c
Hood River	88/64/s	76/54/pc	Redmond	93/54/s	82/46/pc
Imnaha	89/56/s	82/48/c	Roseburg	93/63/s	80/55/pc
John Day	89/58/s	82/47/pc	Salem	86/61/s	73/52/pc
Joseph	83/52/s	77/43/pc	Spokane	87/63/pc	78/52/c
Kennewick	100/67/s	90/56/pc	The Dalles	91/67/s	80/57/pc
Klamath Falls	93/53/s	87/43/pc	Ukiah	87/52/s	76/45/pc
Lakeview	92/54/s	86/45/pc	Walla Walla	94/66/s	83/55/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Sunny and mild

66

45

MT. EMILY REC.

Mostly sunny

75

53

EAGLE CAP WILD.

Mostly sunny

71

43

WALLOWA LAKE

Mostly sunny

83

52

THIEF VALLEY RES.

Mostly sunny; warm

91

56

PHILLIPS LAKE

Sunny and warm

87

53

BROWNLEE RES.

Mostly sunny

88

60

EMIGRANT ST. PARK

Sunny and warm

82

52

MCKAY RESERVOIR

Sunshine and hot

94

64

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK

Mostly sunny

88

58

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