

Mom’s ‘friends’ abandon her after third child is born

DEAR ABBY: I recently welcomed my third child, a baby boy who was wanted and planned. We are overjoyed. Our two daughters are just under 10 years old. Over the years, my social circle has consisted mostly of the parents of my daughters’ friends.

Abby, my news was met with mixed reactions. Some were thrilled for my pregnancy, while others were shocked. One woman even told me, “I’m just not in that phase of life anymore.”

After my son was born, I didn’t get visits or even a phone call from some of them. I announced his birth on social media and mailed out a beautiful announcement, but he hasn’t been acknowledged nor have I been checked on.

I know he won’t really be affected by this and I’m trying to focus on the positives. We have a big family on both sides, and many people within our community have warmly welcomed him. But I have been a good friend to these women, supported them in their times of need and even reached out during this pandemic to check on them in an effort to reconnect. I’m so disappointed.

What am I supposed to say to these “friends” when I run into them again?

— NEW MOM AGAIN

DEAR MOM: When you encounter them, be cordial. Make polite conversation and

ask how they and their families are doing. If they inquire, tell them you and your family are well. Then move on, recognizing you are dealing with individuals who are solely centered upon themselves. Do not attempt to revive a relationship with anyone who cares so little about you that they would treat you as they have, but DO recognize how fortunate you are that you know not to invest more of your time or yourself in them.

DEAR ABBY: I divorced my abusive ex-husband and am happily remarried. I have a son and daughter from my first marriage. They saw a lot of physical and emotional abuse when they were young. I stayed in the marriage to keep the family together until I realized my children were being hurt in the process. My son wit-

nessed more of the abuse than my daughter.

My son has constantly brought up the past and has never been able to make a decent living. He’s married with three children, and they have lived with his mother-in-law for years. I have apologized many times for what happened in the past and asked for forgiveness. I don’t know what else I can do.

I always send birthday and holiday money telling them that I love them, but for some reason they have stopped answering my calls or responding to my texts. I call them three or four times a year. They used to call me when they needed money, but now they don’t call at all. Should I stop sending birthday checks? They missed Mother’s Day and my heart is broken. I don’t know what

I’ve done wrong.
— PAYING FOR THE PAST
DEAR PAYING: You will never know what you “did wrong” unless one of your adult offspring decides to tell you. I hope you realize that you are being abused again, this time by two passive-aggressive adults.

You are not the reason your son lives with his mother-in-law. As to your daughter, who knows her reason for radio silence?

Please stop flogging yourself. Start living your own life. Bind up that broken heart and focus on happiness with your new husband because, as things stand, you’re not going to find much with these two.

Send cards if you must, but omit the money. If you do, I’m sorry to say you may hear from them sooner.

Look out, Mars: Here we come with a fleet of spacecraft

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Planet Earth is about to invade Mars — big time.

The United States, China and the United Arab Emirates are sending unmanned spacecraft to the red planet in quick succession beginning this week, in the most sweeping effort yet to seek signs of ancient microscopic life while scouting out the place for future astronauts.

The U.S. is dispatching a six-wheeled rover the size of a car, named Perseverance, to collect rock samples that will be brought back to Earth for analysis in about a decade.

Each spacecraft will travel more than 300 million miles before reaching Mars next February. It takes at least six to seven months for a spacecraft to loop out beyond Earth’s orbit and sync up with Mars’ more distant orbit around the sun.

Scientists want to know what Mars was like billions of years ago when its rivers,

lakes and oceans may have allowed simple, tiny organisms to flourish before the planet morphed into the barren, wintry desert world it is today.

“Trying to confirm that life existed on another planet, it’s a tall order. It has a very high burden of proof,” said Perseverance’s project scientist, Ken Farley of Caltech in Pasadena, California.

A one-month window when Mars and Earth are in ideal alignment dictates the timing of the launches to minimize travel time and fuel use. Such a window opens once every 26 months.

Only the U.S. has successfully put spacecraft on Mars, doing it eight times, beginning with the twin Vikings in 1976. Two NASA landers are now operating there, InSight and Curiosity. Six other spacecraft are exploring the planet from orbit: three U.S., two European and one from India.



Photo by J. Krohn/NASA via AP

Engineers in December 2019 monitor a driving test for the Mars rover Perseverance in a clean room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. The robotic vehicle is scheduled to launch July 30 and land in an ancient river delta and lake.

The United Arab Emirates and China are looking to join the elite club.

The UAE spacecraft, named Amal, which is Arabic for Hope, is an orbiter scheduled to rocket away Thursday from Japan on what will be the Arab world’s first interplanetary

mission. The spacecraft was built in partnership with the University of Colorado Boulder.

Controlled from Dubai, the weather station will strive for an exceptionally high Martian orbit of 13,670 miles by 27,340 miles to study the upper atmosphere

and monitor climate change.

China will launch its rover and an orbiter sometime around July 23. The mission is named Tianwen, or Questions for Heaven.

NASA is shooting for a launch on July 30 from Cape Canaveral.

Perseverance is set to touch down in Jezero Crater, an ancient river delta and lake. China’s smaller rover will aim for an easier, flatter target.

To reach the surface, both spacecraft will have to plunge through Mars’ hazy red skies in what has been dubbed “seven minutes of terror” — the most difficult and riskiest part of putting spacecraft on the planet. Perseverance’s cameras will shoot color video of the rover’s descent, providing humanity’s first look at a parachute billowing open at Mars, while microphones capture the sounds.

Jezero Crater is full of boulders, cliffs and sand dunes, any one of which could end Perseverance’s

mission. Brand-new guidance and parachute-triggering technology will help steer the craft away from hazards. Ground controllers will be helpless, given the 10 minutes it takes radio transmissions to travel one-way between Earth and Mars.

Jezero Crater is worth the risks, according to scientists who chose it over 60 other potential sites.

Where there was water — and Jezero was apparently flush with it 3.5 billion years ago — there may have been life, though it was probably simple microbial life. But those microbes may have left telltale marks in the sediment layers.

Perseverance will hunt for rocks containing such biological signatures. The rover also will attempt to produce oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere. Extracted oxygen could someday be used by astronauts on Mars for breathing as well as for making rocket propellant.

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weather

TONIGHT

Clear

Baker City 52

Comfort Index™ 4

La Grande 55

Comfort Index™ 6

Enterprise 50

Comfort Index™ 6

FRI

Mostly sunny and nice

Baker City 90 50

6

La Grande 83 50

8

Enterprise 80 47

9

SAT

Partly sunny and nice

Baker City 92 49

6

La Grande 84 50

8

Enterprise 83 48

7

SUN

Mostly sunny and pleasant

Baker City 91 51

6

La Grande 88 53

6

Enterprise 83 52

6

MON

Sunshine and very warm

Baker City 94 53

4

La Grande 93 56

5

Enterprise 87 57

5

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	86°	82°	87°
Low Tuesday	40°	43°	40°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.05	0.22
Normal month to date	0.34	0.38	0.39
Year to date	2.61	13.02	25.19
Normal year to date	6.07	9.76	14.14

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 117° Death Valley, Calif.

Low: 26° Stanley, Idaho

Wettest: 3.74" Lone Rock, Wis.

OREGON

High: 94° Medford

Low: 31° Meacham

Wettest: none

WEATHER HISTORY

Lightning struck a man in Barry's Landing, Wyo., on July 16, 1978. The lightning traveled from his shoulder to his feet, blasting off his clothes and burning holes in his socks. The lucky victim survived.

SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	5:20 a.m.	5:21 a.m.
Sunset	8:36 p.m.	8:36 p.m.
Moonrise	1:58 a.m.	2:31 a.m.
Moonset	5:11 p.m.	6:16 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New	First	Full	Last
Jul 20	Jul 27	Aug 3	Aug 11

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	66/52/pc	68/55/c	Lewiston	88/60/s	89/61/pc
Bend	86/49/s	87/50/pc	Longview	72/52/pc	78/53/pc
Boise	95/63/pc	94/62/s	Meacham	81/46/s	83/46/pc
Brookings	75/53/s	78/57/s	Medford	91/60/s	95/61/s
Burns	92/51/s	91/50/s	Newport	61/45/pc	62/50/pc
Coos Bay	67/53/pc	67/53/s	Olympia	73/48/pc	79/54/c
Corvallis	79/51/pc	83/56/pc	Ontario	98/64/pc	95/63/s
Council	90/54/s	89/54/s	Pasco	92/58/s	94/57/pc
Elgin	82/51/s	83/54/pc	Pendleton	88/57/s	88/57/pc
Eugene	81/51/pc	84/56/s	Portland	76/57/pc	82/60/c
Hermiston	91/59/s	91/59/pc	Powers	75/51/pc	81/54/s
Hood River	77/56/pc	84/58/pc	Redmond	88/46/s	88/48/pc
Imnaha	86/55/s	86/57/pc	Roseburg	84/57/s	85/60/s
John Day	86/54/s	87/53/pc	Salem	79/54/pc	82/56/pc
Joseph	81/48/s	81/49/pc	Spokane	82/56/pc	84/59/pc
Kennewick	92/56/s	92/58/pc	The Dalles	84/59/s	90/61/pc
Klamath Falls	91/49/s	92/50/s	Ukiah	81/44/s	81/47/pc
Lakeview	92/49/s	92/49/s	Walla Walla	87/59/s	87/61/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	Mostly sunny	62	42		PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly sunny	83	48	
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly sunny; nice	70	49		BROWNLEE RES.	Mostly sunny	89	55	
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Mostly sunny	69	39		EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Mostly sunny; nice	76	42	
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly sunny	81	48		MCKAY RESERVOIR	Mostly sunny; nice	87	55	
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Mostly sunny; nice	90	50		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Mostly sunny; nice	83	50	

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