

Dog-walker gives neighbor the creeps

DEAR ABBY: I am a 34-year-old woman. I live in a ground floor unit in an apartment complex with my terrier-collie mix, who is a very good judge of character.



An elderly neighbor has a habit of walking his German shepherd by my unit. My dog does not like the man and barks ferociously every time he hears them. What unsettles me is that something seems off about him, and his behavior is becoming intrusive.

The couple of times he has seen me outside, he has asked me if I live "all alone" or comments that he "hasn't seen my boyfriend around in a long time." He peers into my window when he walks and lingers, despite my growling and snarling dog. I tried closing the blinds, but now he comes to my door and knocks. I haven't answered because he makes me feel unsafe.

I want to confront him, but I'm not sure what to say. It's also happening right in front of the building I live in, which makes me nervous. What should I do?

— WARY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WARY: The person you describe may be more lonely — or nosy — than dangerous. You can't stop someone from walking his dog past your front door if that is where the exit is located. Talk to your other neighbors and ask if he has a history of doing this with them.

If he knocks on your door again, tell him you are busy and don't like being disturbed and to stop doing it. If he asks any more personal questions or comments again about your boyfriend's absence, tell him your social life is none of his business. If it will make you feel more secure, install security cameras in your apartment, and if you catch him peering into your windows again, tell him you have him on camera and you will report him not only to building management but also the police.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a middle-aged woman needing to know what to do. I have family members who say if I weren't around, things would be a lot better. I was told from the beginning that I was a "mistake." I am wondering, should I stay hurt with them for saying these things, or should I let it go?

They are always saying I will never amount to anything. When I say something to them about the way they make me feel, they tell me to be quiet and mind my own business. Should I tell them how I feel or what?

— DEVALUED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DEVALUED: A family member (!) who would say something so cruel as what you have described is someone you should avoid contact with, if possible. It's very important that you spend time with people — other family members or friends — who help you to feel BETTER about yourself rather than worse.

Should you tell these family members how you feel? Ordinarily, I would say yes. However, because you have already done that, I don't think it would enlighten them. Believe me, you have my sympathy because these relatives are toxic.

PILGRIMAGE

Continued from Page 1B

It's obvious that the trees cast a patch of shade across the spot where the snow is measured. It could be that the shade, by retarding the rate of snow melt, in effect inflated the measurement in 2017 compared with the current, shade-free situation.

A bit of explanation is in order regarding how these snow-measuring stations — known as "Snotels," a reference to "Snowpack Telemetry" — work.

The fence doesn't mark the boundary of the measuring area. In fact the readings are taken in a much smaller spot. The key instrument is a "pillow" made of stainless steel or rubber (the latter material being more appropriate, in my sleeping experience, as a place to rest your head) and filled with an antifreeze solution. The weight of snow atop this pillow, which is a square with sides about four feet long, squeezes the liquid into a tube where a sensor calculates the water content.

Although we usually refer to snow

by its depth, water content is the more meaningful measurement with snowpack because it accounts for the significant differences between comparatively "dry" powder snow and the sodden, grainy snow of spring.

Snotels also estimate the snow depth. The horizontal bar that extends from the tower, visible in the photos on Page 1B, contains a sensor that produces a beam of light straight down, where it reflects off the snow. The sensor calculates the snow depth based on how long it takes the reflected beam to hit the sensor.

PELLETS

Continued from Page 1B

Now we were cooking.

Good gun + good pellets = hitting the mark.

Why does accuracy vary so wildly between manufacturers? Here's my theory. One air gun company in particular makes super lightweight alloy pellets. That way they can boast speeds of up to 1,450 feet per second. They may travel along fast, but you just don't quite know where they're traveling to! They are highly inaccurate. So what good is speed if you don't hit where you're shooting? Remember — accuracy trumps speed.

DESIGNS

I don't know why but the Diabolo (Actually the dome-shaped, which I guess is a Diabolo hybrid) shoots the most accurately for me. Looking at them you wouldn't think that they are aerodynamically stable but they say the skirt stabilizes them in flight. I don't know. I'm not an engineer, I just know what shoots best for me. One last comment on this point. I've found that whatever pellets shoots the most accurately for me in one gun does so as well in my other guns. So, pellets 1, 2 and 3 rate the same in all of my guns.

You may ask what about the polymer-tipped pellets? You'd think with the point they'd fly faster, be more accurate and penetrate better thereby having better killing properties. I totally agree. But that's not totally true. Again, the dome-shaped Diabolo pellet is the most accurate design.

Now to address better killing properties. Yes, I'd have to assume and agree that the polymer tip will penetrate better than a flat-nosed pellet. Although I never have tested both on gel to see how well each penetrates. But the problem is, all of the polymer-tipped pellets that I've tested

aren't as accurate as the Diabolo-shaped pellets. So what if they penetrate better if they don't hit in the kill zone? Again, accuracy trumps all.

Another downfall of the polymer-tipped pellets is that they won't work in air guns that use a magazine. They protrude too far and jam up. Used to this applied only to the CO2 and PCP airguns. They'd work fine in break barrel air guns but now more and more manufacturers are offering break barrels that utilize a rotary magazine. I commend the industry for experimenting and trying to make new designs but the polymer tips just aren't fitting into my world.

What about the semi hollow point pellets? I haven't done extensive testing on them so this is just my gut feeling. I don't think that an air gun spits out pellets fast enough to make a hollow point perform and expand like they do in your trusty old 30-06. Although, I took the

Umarex .50-caliber Hammer axis deer and hog hunting last year. I dug the bullet out of the axis deer and it had mushroomed and performed great. I'm going to have to test the hollow point wannabees in the smaller calibers

before you take what I'm saying as the gospel.

MORAL TO THE STORY

Shoot good pellets or you're going to get frustrated with the inaccuracy of your air gun.

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weather

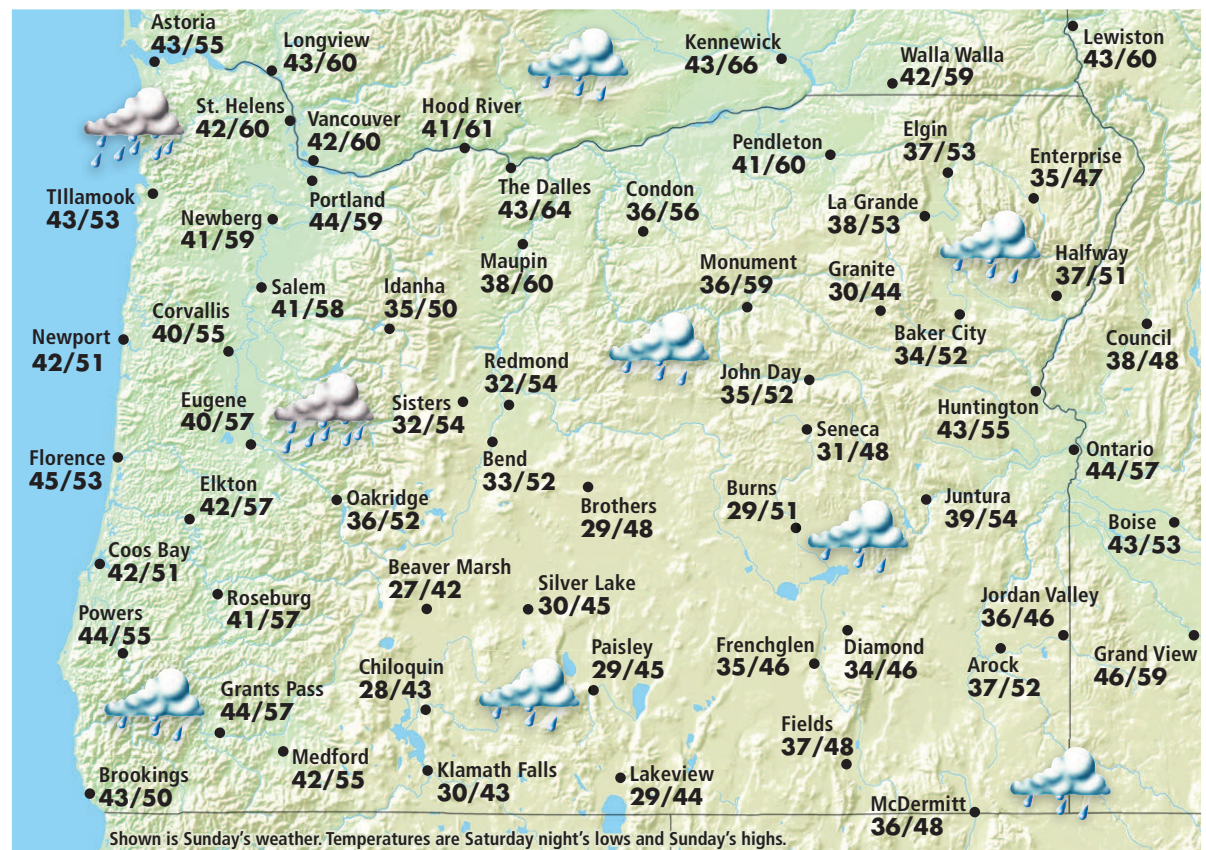
TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Cloudy, a shower or two	Cloudy and cool	Still cloudy	Partly sunny and milder	Chance of a shower
Baker City 34 Comfort Index™ 2	52 28	54 25	61 31	66 37
La Grande 38 Comfort Index™ 1	53 33	56 31	63 34	66 44
Enterprise 35 Comfort Index™ 2	47 27	51 28	59 33	64 44

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	THURSDAY EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	66°	66°	67°
Low Thursday	26°	32°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)		
Thursday	0.00	Trace	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.02	0.15
Normal month to date	0.58	1.12	1.47
Year to date	1.09	5.71	13.32
Normal year to date	2.78	5.35	9.17
	OREGON		
	High: 75° Medford		
	Low: 20° Lakeview		
	Wettest: Trace Brookings		

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.4
Evapotranspiration	0.08
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	23% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	99% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	59% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	94% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	65% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	99% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	6460 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	38 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	205 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	730 cfs
Minam River at Minam	680 cfs
Powder River near Richland	131 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



City	SUN.		MON.	
	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W
Astoria	55/43/c	56/42/pc	Lewiston	60/41/sh
Bend	52/30/c	53/29/c	Longview	60/40/c
Boise	53/38/c	56/35/pc	Meacham	53/33/c
Brookings	50/43/r	53/42/sh	Medford	55/38/r
Burns	51/27/c	52/24/c	Newport	51/41/r
Coos Bay	51/40/r	54/36/sh	Olympia	58/41/c
Corvallis	55/40/r	60/37/sh	Ontario	57/37/c
Council	48/32/sh	53/30/c	Pasco	67/39/c
Elgin	53/32/c	55/30/c	Pendleton	60/40/c
Eugene	57/41/r	59/37/sh	Portland	59/42/r
Hermiston	67/42/c	68/39/c	Powers	55/40/r
Hood River	61/43/c	59/38/sh	Redmond	54/30/c
Idanha	53/31/sh	56/30/c	Roseburg	57/40/r
John Day	52/34/sh	52/27/c	Salem	58/40/r
Joseph	45/25/sh	49/28/c	Spokane	55/38/c
Kennewick	66/38/c	70/38/c	The Dalles	64/43/c
Klamath Falls	43/22/sh	48/23/sh	Ukiah	50/30/c
Lakeview	44/23/c	47/21/c	Walla Walla	59/42/c

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY			
ANTHONY LAKES Cloudy and cold	28 16	PHILLIPS LAKE Cloudy, a shower	47 27
MT. EMILY REC. Cloudy and cold	39 28	BROWNLEE RES. Spotty showers	53 34
EAGLE CAP WILD. A shower	34 16	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Cloudy and chilly	48 26
WALLOWA LAKE Spotty showers	45 25	MCKAY RESERVOIR Cloudy	60 39
THIEF VALLEY RES. Cloudy, a shower	52 28	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Cloudy and cool	53 33