

Overbearing boyfriend ruins family get-togethers

DEAR ABBY: We get our children and grandchildren together twice a year. Our oldest daughter is divorced and, unfortunately, has a significant other the rest of our family cannot stand. He's an arrogant, competitive know-it-all.



DEAR ABBY

We have been around him only twice — the last two times the family got together. The second time was a disaster for the rest of us. Should we tell her we don't want to invite him this year, and how do we say it? Or should we not tell her?

— **TENTATIVE IN FLORIDA**
DEAR TENTATIVE: Talk to your daughter about this. When

you do, have handy a list of the ways he offended your family members at the gathering. Her significant other may be so self-centered he doesn't realize he's being obnoxious. Ask her to ask him to dial back his need to compete, impress, cover for his own insecurity — whatever drives him. Then give him one more chance. If that fails, do not invite him again, and tell her why. You can always see your daughter separately, I assume, and so can her siblings.

DEAR ABBY: I had a relationship with a wonderful woman for almost six years. During the

course of our relationship, I purchased a rather expensive precious stone — exactly what she wanted — with the intent of giving it to her as a promise ring. (Neither of us are fans of the institution of marriage.) We have since gone our separate ways, but we still communicate.

Because it was purchased for her, I am tempted to give her the stone. At the same time, I have entertained the notion of keeping it and giving it to my future life partner, should I meet someone I care for that deeply. Your guidance would be greatly appreciated.

— **ROMANCING THE STONE**
DEAR ROMANCING: Promise rings symbolize the

promise of a proposal of marriage. In the case of your former girlfriend, it didn't pan out. Because the two of you still communicate, why not mention to her that you have the stone and ask if she would like to have it. If she says no, you can always offer it to someone else, although I can't promise the lady will be eager to receive a souvenir of a failed relationship.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine has a 70-pound dog that behaves badly. When I visit her, it sprints out of the front door, barking, and jumps on my car. It has left deep scratches on two of my vehicles.

She yells at it, and eventually the dog stops, but not before jumping on me and leaving me

muddled and snagged. This friend is due to have a baby, and I am sure she will be inviting me over to meet the baby soon. How can I avoid further damage to my car and clothing without damaging my friendship?

— **ASSAULTED IN AUSTIN**
DEAR ASSAULTED: The obvious answer is to find the courage to tell your friend you are willing to visit only if she confines her dog so it won't cause further damage to you and your property. And while you are at it, mention that you are concerned about her baby's safety. Her dog's lack of discipline poses a distinct danger to her little one.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Girl Scout cookies take flight in Virginia drone deliveries

CHRISTIANSBURG, Va. — Missing out on Thin Mints in the pandemic? A Google affiliate is using drones to deliver Girl Scout cookies to people's doorsteps in a Virginia community.

The town of Christiansburg has been a testing ground for commercial delivery drones operated by Wing, a subsidiary of Google's corporate parent Alphabet.

Now the company is adding the iconic boxed cookies to the more mundane drugstore offerings, FedEx packages and locally-made pastries, tacos and cold brew coffees it's been hauling to a thinly populated area of residential subdivisions since 2019.

Wing said it began talking to local Girl Scout troops because they've been having a harder time selling cookies during the pandemic, when fewer people are out and about. The orga-



Sam Dean/Wing LLC via AP

In this photo from April 14, 2021, Girl Scouts Alice, right, and Gracie pose with a Wing delivery drone in Christiansburg, Virginia. The company is testing drone delivery of Girl Scout cookies in the area.

nization jumped on the new twist to its skills-building mission.

"I'm excited that I get to be a part of history," said 11-year-old Gracie Walker, of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Troop 224. "People are going to realize and be, like, 'Hey, this is better for the environment and I can just walk out-

side in my pajamas and get cookies.'"

It's the latest attempt to build public enthusiasm for drone delivery as Wing competes against Amazon, Walmart, UPS and others to overcome the many technical and regulatory challenges of flying packages over neighborhoods.

Federal officials started

rolling out new rules in mid-April that will allow operators to fly small drones over people and at night, potentially giving a boost to commercial use of the machines. Most drones will need to be equipped so they can be identified remotely by law enforcement officials.

The 10-pound Wing drone that made the first

deliveries in Christiansburg in fall 2019 is already an artifact held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Whether it will go down in history as a revolutionary innovation or a utopian flop remains to be seen.

Amazon has also been working on drone delivery for years. In 2013, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos said in a TV interview that drones would be flying to customer's homes within five years, but that deadline has long since passed. The company did win government approval to deliver packages by drones last August, but Amazon said it was still testing them and hasn't started delivering goods to shoppers yet.

David Vos, an aerospace engineer who led Google's Wing project until 2016, said he's been surprised that drone delivery ventures haven't taken off more quickly.

"I thought it was completely doable to be up and going by 2021," Vos said. While he still thinks drone technology is getting closer to delivering the size,

weight and power needed to transport goods safely in populated places, Vos said the tech industry also needs a cultural shift.

In particular, he said, it needs to bring on people from the traditional aviation industry who have experience building "safety-critical systems" that meet strict performance standards.

Wing's drones are able to navigate autonomously — without a human pilot controlling them remotely — and are powered by two forward propellers on their wings and 12 smaller vertical propellers. When a drone reaches its destination, it hovers above the front lawn as a tether releases to drop the package.

"It was so smooth and it didn't shake," said Walker, who, before her troop added drones to its sales strategy, would don a mask and set up a cookie booth outside a home improvement store. "They look like a helicopter but also a plane."

— **Associated Press**

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weather

| | TONIGHT | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | Mainly clear | Clouds and sun; warmer | Not as warm in the p.m. | A shower or two; cooler | Mostly cloudy, showers |
| Baker City | 29 | 73 44 | 76 38 | 55 32 | 57 31 |
| Comfort Index™ | 9 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| La Grande | 37 | 76 55 | 73 39 | 53 36 | 57 35 |
| Comfort Index™ | 9 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Enterprise | 34 | 72 55 | 74 35 | 49 31 | 51 34 |
| Comfort Index™ | 10 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 0 |

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 | | SUNDAY EXTREMES | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| TEMPERATURES | Baker City | La Grande | Elgin |
| High Sunday | 58° | 60° | 61° |
| Low Sunday | 34° | 39° | 38° |
| PRECIPITATION (inches) | | | |
| Sunday | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Month to date | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.03 |
| Normal month to date | 0.08 | 0.12 | 0.14 |
| Year to date | 1.69 | 5.86 | 13.74 |
| Normal year to date | 3.13 | 5.93 | 9.83 |

| AGRICULTURAL INFO. | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY | |
| Lowest relative humidity | 25% |
| Afternoon wind | SSE at 8 to 16 mph |
| Hours of sunshine | 6.0 |
| Evapotranspiration | 0.21 |

| RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday) | |
|---|------------------|
| Phillips Reservoir | 23% of capacity |
| Unity Reservoir | 99% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir | 56% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir | 97% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake | 63% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 100% of capacity |

| STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday) | |
|--|----------|
| Grande Ronde at Troy | 7950 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 39 cfs |
| Burnt River near Unity | 236 cfs |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon | 1040 cfs |
| Minam River at Minam | 1210 cfs |
| Powder River near Richland | 103 cfs |

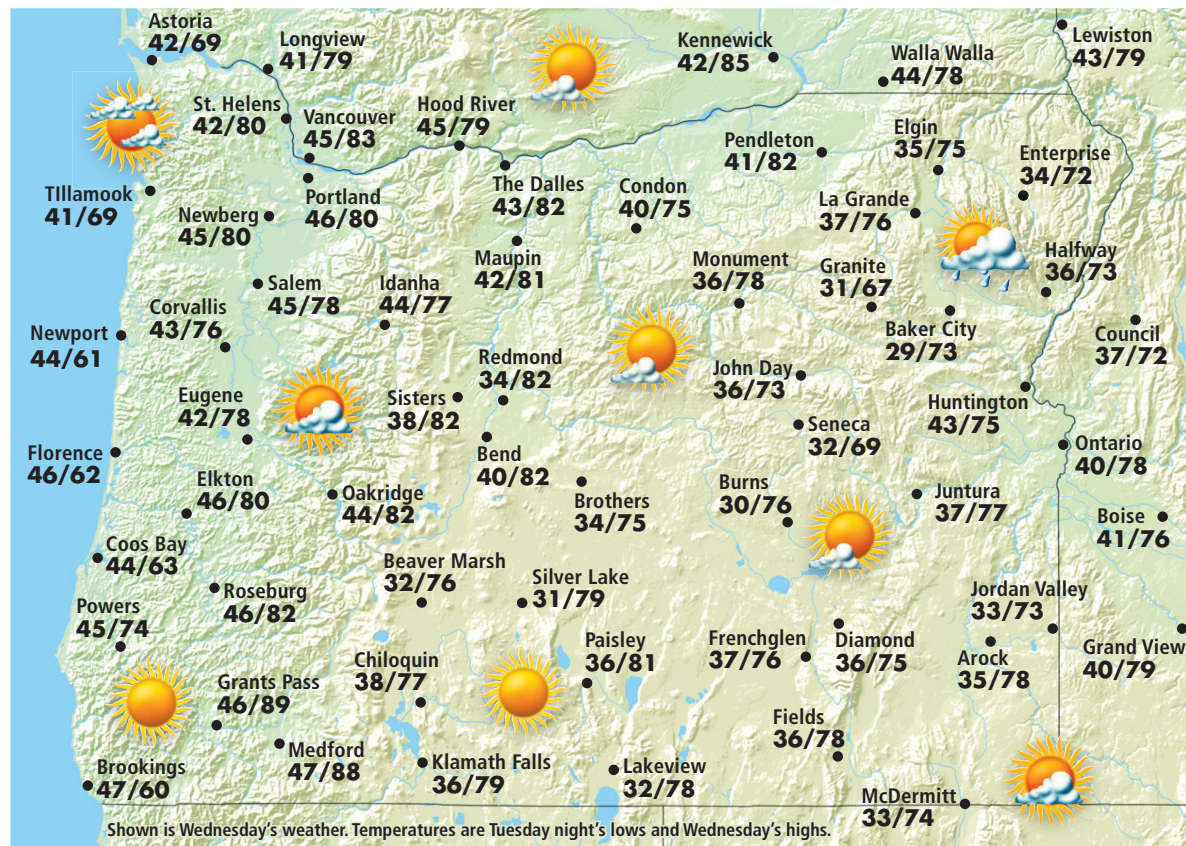
| WEATHER HISTORY | | |
|---|--|--|
| Frost occurred as far south as Baton Rouge, La., on May 4, 1812, while snow accumulated from Philadelphia to Boston. Snow fell in Baltimore on May 4, 1893, and in northern Texas on the same date in 1917. | | |

| SUN & MOON | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Sunrise | 5:36 a.m. | 5:35 a.m. |
| Sunset | 8:03 p.m. | 8:04 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 3:07 a.m. | 3:34 a.m. |
| Moonset | 12:50 p.m. | 1:58 p.m. |

| MOON PHASES | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|
| New | First | Full | Last |
| May 11 | May 19 | May 26 | Jun 2 |

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

| City | WED. | | THU. | |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W |
| Astoria | 69/49/c | 56/44/r | Lewiston | 79/50/pc |
| Bend | 82/50/pc | 65/35/pc | Longview | 79/51/c |
| Boise | 76/55/pc | 82/46/pc | Meacham | 74/54/pc |
| Brookings | 60/47/c | 56/44/sh | Medford | 88/50/pc |
| Burns | 76/42/pc | 57/43/r | Newport | 61/47/c |
| Coos Bay | 63/47/pc | 57/43/r | Olympia | 71/45/c |
| Corvallis | 76/47/pc | 61/43/r | Ontario | 78/50/pc |
| Council | 72/46/pc | 78/42/pc | Pasco | 83/51/pc |
| Elgin | 75/51/pc | 70/39/pc | Pendleton | 82/54/pc |
| Eugene | 78/47/pc | 62/44/r | Portland | 80/53/pc |
| Hermiston | 85/55/pc | 76/42/pc | Powers | 74/47/pc |
| Hood River | 79/54/pc | 65/44/r | Redmond | 82/45/pc |
| Imnaha | 73/46/pc | 80/40/pc | Roseburg | 82/47/pc |
| John Day | 73/50/pc | 74/37/pc | Salem | 78/49/pc |
| Joseph | 71/56/pc | 73/34/pc | Spokane | 71/49/pc |
| Kennewick | 85/53/pc | 78/46/pc | The Dalles | 82/54/pc |
| Klamath Falls | 79/42/pc | 62/30/pc | Ukiah | 75/47/pc |
| Lakeview | 78/40/pc | 69/27/s | Walla Walla | 72/46/pc |

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| ANTHONY LAKES Not as cool | 50 45 | PHILLIPS LAKE Clouds and sun | 69 44 |
| MT. EMILY REC. Warmer | 63 53 | BROWNLEE RES. Clouds and sun | 76 45 |
| EAGLE CAP WILD. Not as cool | 56 40 | EMIGRANT ST. PARK Partly sunny | 71 50 |
| WALLOWA LAKE Warmer | 71 56 | MCKAY RESERVOIR Partly sunny | 82 54 |
| THIEF VALLEY RES. Warmer | 73 44 | RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Some sun; warmer | 76 55 |

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