

Grandmother cut off after critiquing love triangle



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: My daughter "Faith" has started dating "Kane," a new guy she met online. He seems like a stand-up guy. Her old boyfriend, "Blake," was out of the picture, but since she's started seeing someone else, he constantly shows up. Mind you, Blake is supposed to be engaged to the woman living with him. Faith tells Kane that Blake is "like a brother" to her. Since he's constantly coming around, I

asked her if she has told her boyfriend she used to date Blake, that he puts his vehicle in her garage and she is asking him to do things around the house as if he's her man. I think she needs to level with Kane, so he can decide whether he wants to be involved in an open relationship.

Since I mentioned it, she no longer has anything to do with me. She ordered me not to call her or come to her house. I have a 2-year-old grandson I have helped her care for since he was born. It hurts me that I can't see him. Please give me your opinion and tell me if I owe her an apology. — **Mom Who Means Well**

Dear Mom: It appears your daughter and her ex are not entirely through with each other. If Kane is being led to believe he and Faith have an exclusive relationship, he's being deliberately misled, and shame on her. She may be keeping him around for insurance in case her relationship with Blake falls through again. You do not "owe" your daughter an apology for speaking your mind, but you may have to offer one if you want to see your grandson.

Dear Abby: My spouse and I had our first child early this year during the pandemic. It was a difficult time because we couldn't

have any family with us during the delivery. We live in the same town as my in-laws, and this is their first grandchild.

Abby, their behavior toward this child has become possessive and intrusive. My spouse and I have tried to set boundaries, to no avail. We tried explaining that we are new parents in a very difficult time in this world right now, and there is more stress than there would normally be. They listen and acknowledge what we are saying, but their behavior doesn't change.

This is causing us more anxiety in an already anxious time. We would never want to restrict

access to their grandchild, but every day is too much.

Other than moving, what are our options? — **New Mommy in Pennsylvania**

Dear New Mommy: Another option would be for you and your spouse to set specific times when the in-laws are welcome to visit. If they pop in when they are not expected, do not let them in. Explain firmly that they need to adhere to the schedule you have set because your stress level is already above where it should be. They may not like it, but if the alternative is you moving, it would be less expensive and disruptive for you.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

In Murdaugh family scandal, tiny South Carolina town shaken

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**
The Associated Press

HAMPTON, S.C. — Ask any of the 2,600 residents in this South Carolina town whether they know Alex Murdaugh, and you'll probably get a quick nod. Nearly everyone does in Hampton, a tiny place where every road has just two lanes.

Ask them to tell you about Murdaugh, though, and you'll get a firm head shake, followed by: "You're not going to quote me, are you?" No one wants to talk about the influential lawyer whose wife and son were killed and who's now accused in a string of controversies — at least, not in the open.

For the past century, the Murdaughs have steered much of the legal world in this remote corner of South Carolina — north of Savannah, Georgia, and far from the interstate or just about anything else. Running the prosecutor's office and a large civil law firm allowed the Murdaughs to do it quietly, until recently.

Murdaugh's wife, Maggie, and son, Paul, were killed June 7, shot multiple times at the family's sprawling estate. No one's been arrested in their deaths, which brought scrutiny into every nook of Murdaugh's life.

Six investigations are underway, over the killings, stolen money, death coverups and a Sept. 4 shooting in which a bullet grazed Murdaugh's head on a lonely highway. Police said he tried to arrange his



The gates near Alex Murdaugh's home in Islandton, S.C., are seen in this Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 photo. State police have six separate investigations into Murdaugh and his family after his wife and son were shot to death outside the home in June.

own death and make sure a \$10 million life insurance policy would pay off for his surviving son.

The man charged with shooting Murdaugh is Curtis "Eddie" Smith, a former client from a workplace accident case. Smith said they became friends, and he was stunned to find himself dismissed as a callous drug dealer by Murdaugh's lawyers.

"With a friend like that, who needs enemies," Smith said as he limped around his property in Walterboro, checking on his shop and rescue dogs. He wouldn't say anymore, insisting he was done discussing Murdaugh and the case — for now.

Like many people in

town, Smith got entangled with the Murdaughs in a courtroom in Hampton County, population 20,000, where the family is used to being in power, not being questioned.

But plenty of people tell hushed stories of what happened if the Murdaughs were crossed.

Connor Cook said that in 2019, he knew his friend, Paul Murdaugh, was intoxicated when he drove a boat that crashed, killing a 19-year-old passenger. But the Murdaughs tried to pin him as the driver, Cook said, according to a wrongful death lawsuit.

The night of the crash, Alex Murdaugh and his father visited the hospital. Murdaugh scrutinized a

board where staff kept track of patients and tried to talk to everyone who'd been on the boat, nurses told investigators.

The crash bought the kind of attention the Murdaughs always tried — and for decades, succeeded — to avoid. It took months to charge Paul Murdaugh with boating under the influence causing death, the local newspaper noted. Many around town wondered whether the family was wielding their sizeable influence.

Paul Murdaugh was awaiting trial when he died. Now, state police are investigating whether the Murdaughs obstructed that investigation. They're also looking into the 2018 death

of family housekeeper Gloria Satterfield.

She died after falling in the Murdaughs' home, but the death wasn't reported to the coroner. Documents appear to show Murdaugh's insurance paid more than \$4 million in wrongful-death claims. But a lawyer for Satterfield's sons said they haven't seen a dime since agreeing to use an attorney who was Murdaugh's college buddy to handle the legal work and another banker friend as estate executor.

Despite long staying out of headlines, the Murdaughs aren't strangers to their own legal troubles. Alex Murdaugh's great-grandfather, Randolph, founded the family

law firm and in 1920 became the elected prosecutor for the five-county region that includes Hampton County. Randolph Murdaugh died when his car was hit by a train as he headed home from a poker game in 1940.

His son, Randolph "Buster" Murdaugh Jr., took over the law firm and prosecutor position; he served for 46 years, with the exception of several months awaiting federal trial over tipping off a local moonshiner to move his still. Eighteen of 23 defendants were found guilty.

But "Buster" was acquitted and returned to office — even as the judge noted that, if he were Murdaugh, he "could not go back and face his people much less resume public office," according to federal records.

Randolph Murdaugh III followed his father, taking over in 1986 and serving almost 20 years. Neither of his sons followed him into the solicitor's chair, although Alex Murdaugh worked as a volunteer prosecutor before his law license was suspended in September as he was fired from the family's PMPED law firm over millions of dollars turning up missing.

In civil law, the Murdaughs were known for suing railroads. A now-repealed South Carolina law allowed anyone who wanted to sue a railroad to choose any state county. The Murdaughs found sympathetic juries and made Hampton County known for seven-figure verdicts.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Mainly clear	Nice with sun and clouds	Sunny and pleasant	More sunshine than clouds	Mostly cloudy and cooler
Baker City	31	77 33	79 36	78 35	61 31
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	5
La Grande	40	76 33	77 38	70 38	55 33
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	2
Enterprise	38	74 41	80 47	73 33	59 33
Comfort Index™	10	10	8	10	5

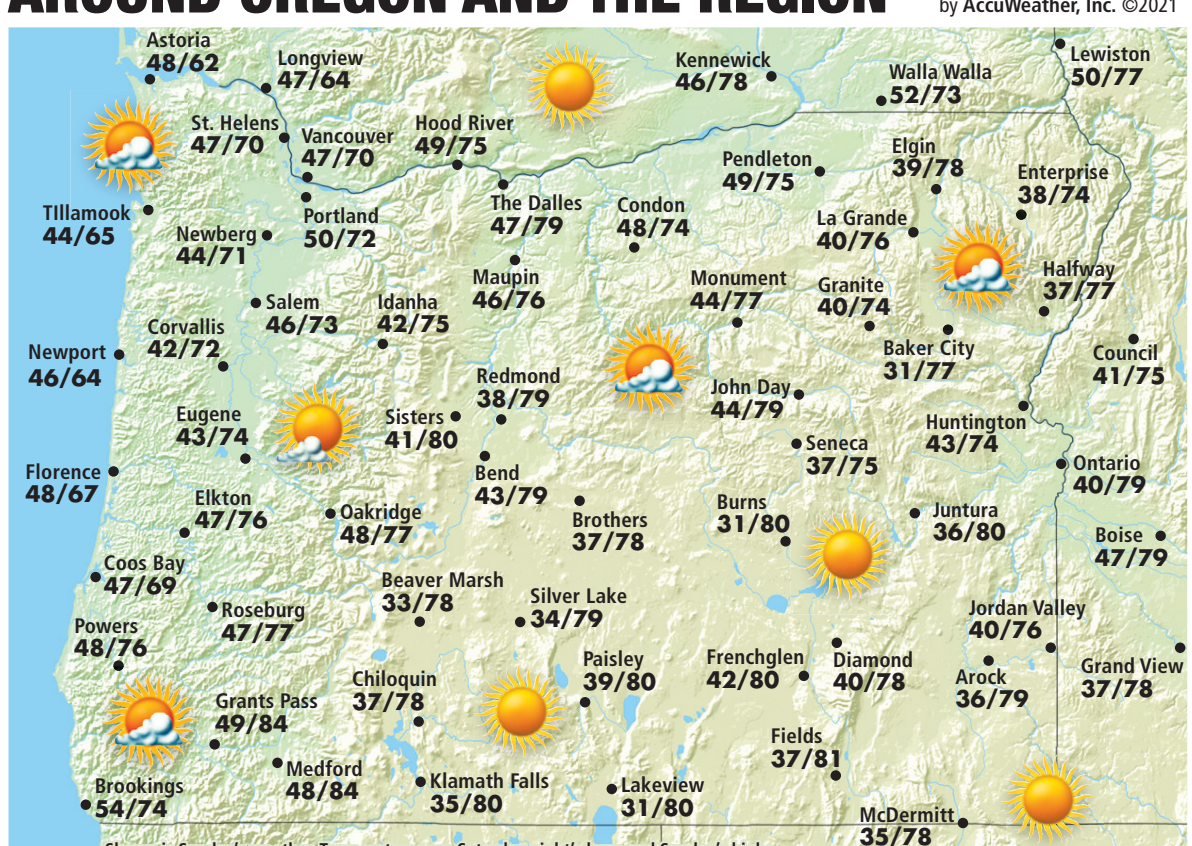
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC			
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	73°	76°	75°
Low Thursday	24°	33°	32°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	Trace
Month to date	0.47	0.84	0.62
Normal month to date	0.44	0.67	0.96
Year to date	3.58	7.38	16.41
Normal year to date	6.86	12.00	16.87

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	8.3
Evapotranspiration	0.12
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	10% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	10% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	27% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	0% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	553 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	29 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	45 cfs
Minam River at Minam	63 cfs
Powder River near Richland	2 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES			
Astoria	48/62	Longview	47/64
St. Helens	47/70	Vancouver	47/70
Hood River	49/75	The Dalles	47/79
Condon	48/74	Maupin	46/76
Idanha	42/75	Redmond	38/79
Sisters	41/80	Bend	43/79
Brookings	54/74	Medford	48/84
Chiloquin	37/78	Klamath Falls	35/80
Lakeview	31/80	Walla Walla	73/52/5
Kennewick	46/78	Walla Walla	52/73
Lewiston	50/77	Enterprise	38/74
Elgin	39/78	Halfway	37/77
Council Bluffs	41/75	Huntington	43/74
Ontario	40/79	Juntura	36/80
Boise	47/79	Boise	47/79
Jordan Valley	40/76	Arock	36/79
Grand View	37/78	McDermitt	35/78

Show is Sunday's weather. Temperatures are Saturday night's lows and Sunday's highs.

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY			
ANTHONY LAKES	Partly sunny	56	39
MT. EMILY REC.	Sun and clouds	63	39
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Partly sunny; nice	63	37
WALLOWA LAKE	Clouds and sun	75	46
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Partly sunny	77	33
PHILLIPS LAKE	Partly sunny; warm	74	37
BROWNLEE RES.	Partly sunny; nice	79	40
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Clouds and sun	70	31
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Sunny intervals	74	47
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Partly sunny	76	33