

Substance abuse pits family members against each other



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

ting my kids back after I acquire more clean time; neither of my parents wants that. I know Dad resents me deeply, both because he has my kids and also because of my addiction.

If I can forgive him for what his alcoholism has put me through, why can't he forgive me? I don't understand why he has to hate me. Believe me, he hates me! I just want him to treat me the same way he treats my older brother and sister. I need help with this situation. Counseling is not an option; I know he will refuse.

— **Hurting In Michigan**

Dear Hurting: A predisposition to addiction can run in families. I suspect that the person your father hates is himself, and that he

saw a lot of himself in you while you were using. That you are now sober is a constant reminder of what a failure he is, which may be why he treats you the way he does.

While counseling for him may be out, it doesn't mean that you couldn't benefit from it. Please consider it. Although it won't make your father love you, it may help you to handle his unpleasantness more effectively. Once you have accumulated more clean time, regaining custody of your children may become a viable option, and something to discuss with a lawyer at that time.

Dear Abby: My wife has started slurping her food at

dinner. I think it started after we returned from a vacation three months ago. I'm convinced she didn't do it before then because we have taken a couple of vacations recently where it would have been noticeable because of the quiet, intimate places in which we dined.

Because of the COVID quarantine, I realize that tensions can be heightened, and I have tried not to make too much of this. I am reluctant to speak up about it because during my first marriage, even the slightest noise when eating would upset my ex-wife, and I think it would be unfair for me to have the same pet peeve.

This may seem like I'm overly sensitive, but her slurping and

heavy breathing every time she takes a bite, even with dry food, is making dinner time uncomfortable for me.

I have pointed it out in a casual way, but it seems she is unaware of just how loudly she is eating. What can I do to reach a compromise on this? — **Uncomfortable Diner**

Dear Diner: While your sensitivity to this might be related to the problems you had with your first wife, because this is a recent change in your current wife's behavior, it should be checked out by her doctor. I am less concerned about her "slurping" than about the labored breathing you described when your wife is eating.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Millionaire pooch selling Miami villa once owned by Madonna

By **KELLI KENNEDY**
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Gunther the German shepherd spent a recent morning playing with his tennis ball, rolling in the grass, slobbering a little and napping a lot. Later, he had a "meeting" with the real estate agents selling his Miami mansion that his handlers bought from Madonna.

And of course Gunther was wearing his very best faux diamond dog collar for the meeting — his real gold collar is back at his main home in Tuscany. As crazy as it sounds even by Florida's standards, Gunther VI inherited his vast fortune, including the eight-bedroom waterfront home once owned by the "Material Girl" singer, from his grandfather Gunther IV. At least that's what the handlers who manage the estate say.

The Tuscan-style villa with views of Biscayne Bay went on sale Wednesday for \$31.75 million — a whopping markup from the purchase two decades ago from the pop star for \$7.5 million. The home also boasts a gilded framed portrait of Gunther IV over the living room fireplace.

The dog's lineage dates back decades to when Gunther III inherited a multimillion-dollar trust from late owner German countess Karlotta Liebenstein when she died in 1992. Since then, a group of handlers have helped maintain a jet-setting lifestyle for a



Lynne Sladky/The Associated Press

German Shepherd Gunther VI chases a tennis ball thrown by handler Stacey Marino outside of a house formerly owned by pop star Madonna, Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, in Miami. Gunther VI inherited his vast fortune, including the 9-bedroom waterfront home once owned by the Material Girl from his grandfather Gunther IV. The estate, purchased 20 years ago from the pop star, was listed for sale Nov. 17.

succession of dogs. There are trips to Milan and the Bahamas, where the latest Gunther recently dined out at restaurants every evening — his handlers like to make sure he's well socialized.

A chef cooks his breakfast each morning made of the finest meat, fresh vegetables and rice. Sometimes he enjoys caviar, but there's never any kibble in sight. He travels by private jet, works on obedience skills daily with his trainer and sleeps in a lavish round, red

velvet bed overlooking the bay.

"He lives in Madonna's former master bedroom," said real estate agent Ruthie Assouline who nabbed the listing with her husband Ethan for the 1.2-acre property in a row of a half-dozen waterfront homes next to a public county park and on the same street where Sylvester Stallone once lived.

"He literally sleeps overlooking the most magnificent view in an Italian

custom bed in the former bedroom of the greatest pop star in the world."

Carla Riccitelli is one of Gunther's main caretakers and is on a board that manages the trust now worth almost \$500 million, deciding when to buy and sell real estate. The group has even purchased sports teams, including a men's soccer team and women's swimming team and, yes, Gunther played on the field and attended the meets, she said.

Riccitelli, a 52-year-old animal lover who resides in Tuscany, met the group taking care of Gunther nearly 30 years ago. She instantly connected with the dog and the mission of the trust, and joined the team. She also helped form Gunther Rescue a few years ago to care for other animals.

She has taken care of the last three Gunthers and often brings the current dog with her on routine trips to the market or visits to the

kennel where she cares for strays.

"He's not aggressive at all," she said, saying many people write off the breed as wolves. "He's very good with other animals."

"They're very protective with their owner, with their people. They like to have the family around so I usually invite friends with other dogs over," she said during a phone interview.

She talks with the board that oversees the trust a few times a month.

The Miami real estate market is so hot, with such limited inventory, they decided it was an opportune time to sell.

The Assoulines are accustomed to multi-million dollar listings, but this one seemed unbelievable.

"When it was explained that this house was bought by this German shepherd, I was like, 'What are you talking about? I'm not following you,'" Ruthie Assouline said.

When she first met Gunther, he covered her face with such sloppy kisses that he licked off her lipstick, she said.

As luxurious as Gunther's life sound, he still has drama and hardships like everyone. Back in Italy, Riccitelli has two other dogs that live with Gunther — his favorite playmates.

But she also has six cats and a couple of chickens.

Let's just say it's a work in progress, Riccitelli said.

"He's still learning to be with six cats."

weather

TONIGHT Partly cloudy	SUN Mostly sunny	MON Mostly sunny	TUE A few afternoon showers	WED Some sun, then clouds
Baker City Comfort Index™ 3	42 23 2	46 26 3	43 25 3	41 25 3
La Grande Comfort Index™ 5	46 30 3	48 33 3	49 33 2	44 29 5
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 3	48 29 5	49 32 7	45 25 3	38 31 3

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	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High Thursday: Baker City 39°, La Grande 43°, Elgin 44°	High: 86° Yuma, Ariz.
Low Thursday: Baker City 32°, La Grande 36°, Elgin 39°	Low: -4° Daniel, Wyo.
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Wettest: 2.32" Marathon, Fla.
Thursday: Trace	OREGON
Month to date: 0.62	High: 64° Roseburg
Normal month to date: 0.42	Low: 21° Rome
Year to date: 4.97	Wettest: 0.49" Astoria
Normal year to date: 7.90	

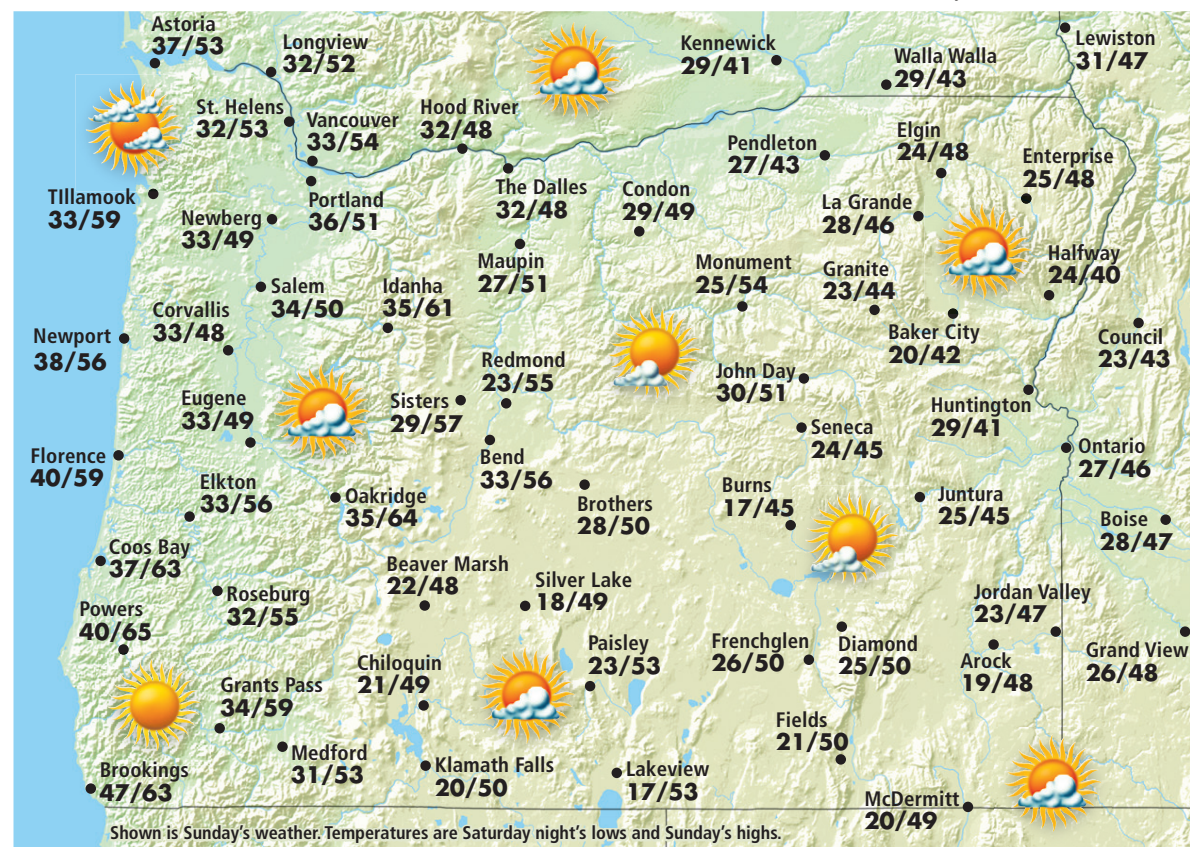
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	WEATHER HISTORY
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	A storm on Nov. 20, 1798, brought heavy snow with high winds to New England. The storm caused great damage to vessels on coast, and many people were killed.
Lowest relative humidity: 35%	
Afternoon wind: SSE at 8 to 16 mph	
Hours of sunshine: 5.8	
Evapotranspiration: 0.07	

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	SUN & MOON
Phillips Reservoir: N.A.	SAT.
Unity Reservoir: 13% of capacity	Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.
Owyhee Reservoir: 13% of capacity	Sunset: 4:18 p.m.
McKay Reservoir: 10% of capacity	Moonrise: 5:06 p.m.
Wallowa Lake: 8% of capacity	Moonsset: 8:20 a.m.
Thief Valley Reservoir: 4% of capacity	SUN.
	Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.
	Sunset: 4:17 p.m.
	Moonrise: 5:46 p.m.
	Moonsset: 9:21 a.m.

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	MOON PHASES
Grande Ronde at Troy: 975 cfs	Last: Nov 27
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder: 0 cfs	New: Dec 3
Burnt River near Unity: 16 cfs	First: Dec 10
Umatilla River near Gibbon: 65 cfs	Full: Dec 18
Minam River at Minam: 148 cfs	
Powder River near Richland: 9 cfs	

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	53/39/s	51/44/pc	Lewiston	47/35/pc	50/33/pc
Bend	56/34/s	61/38/s	Longview	52/35/s	52/42/pc
Boise	47/29/s	50/33/s	Meacham	47/28/s	49/31/pc
Brookings	63/45/s	58/46/s	Medford	53/32/s	52/38/pc
Burns	48/31/s	46/25/s	Newport	56/42/s	55/43/pc
Coos Bay	63/37/s	60/43/s	Olympia	47/31/pc	48/39/pc
Corvallis	48/30/s	51/39/pc	Ontario	46/27/s	45/29/s
Council	43/25/s	45/30/s	Pasco	43/27/s	42/32/pc
Elgin	48/28/s	50/31/pc	Pendleton	43/29/s	46/34/pc
Eugene	49/31/s	53/41/pc	Portland	51/35/s	52/42/pc
Hermiston	44/29/s	46/33/pc	Power	65/36/s	64/44/s
Hood River	48/31/s	49/36/pc	Redmond	55/29/s	58/33/s
Imnaha	51/34/s	53/35/pc	Roseburg	55/34/s	57/41/pc
John Day	51/34/s	52/36/s	Salem	50/32/s	52/42/pc
Joseph	48/32/s	50/34/pc	Spokane	39/26/pc	41/27/pc
Kennewick	41/25/s	42/30/pc	The Dalles	48/30/s	47/36/pc
Klamath Falls	50/21/s	52/27/s	Ukiah	51/27/s	52/30/s
Lakeview	53/21/s	52/25/s	Walla Walla	43/28/s	43/33/pc

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Mostly sunny 35 28	PHILLIPS LAKE Mostly sunny 42 23
MT. EMILY REC. Mostly sunny 40 29	BROWNLEE RES. Mostly sunny 49 27
EAGLE CAP WLD. Mostly sunny 36 21	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Mostly sunny 45 28
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny 48 32	MCKAY RESERVOIR Mostly sunny 49 31
THIEF VALLEY RES. Mostly sunny 42 23	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly sunny 46 30

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