

Accepting grandma irked by intolerance of others



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My adult granddaughter, “Kaia,” is in a relationship with “Jenny.” Jenny’s stepmom doesn’t believe in gay marriage or homosexuality. I’m having a hard time dealing with the fact that Jenny’s family doesn’t accept Kaia or allow her in their home. Kaia is excluded from all holidays and family functions. I don’t know what to do or say to her about this. They are getting married in two months, and Jenny’s family is still shunning her. How do I deal with these “holy

rollers” who use the church as a reason to hate my granddaughter? I don’t want to die knowing she’ll have a miserable life ahead of her. Please help me. — **SUPPORTIVE IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR SUPPORTIVE: If Jenny’s family are truly good Christians, they may not dislike your granddaughter. They may be following a misguided directive to love the “sinner” but hate the “sin.” I cannot advise strongly enough that Kaia and Jenny discuss the ramifications of that family’s stance before they marry. I am surprised Jenny would attend family gatherings from which Kaia is excluded. If this continues after the marriage, it could

damage their relationship. A counselor at the nearest LGBTQ center would be helpful in facilitating this discussion. Be as supportive to your granddaughter and Jenny as you can so they know you’re always in their corner. Encourage them to cultivate their own “chosen family” as they move into their future. **DEAR ABBY:** My husband, “Jonah,” comes from a large family. They are rude people who live in a small, rural town, and they don’t like outsiders. Jonah and I have been together 15 years (married for eight), and I have never been invited to his mother’s home or some of his siblings’ homes. We love to entertain, so they

attend our holiday parties, where they literally walk in without greeting me. They eat all our food and leave without saying goodbye or even helping with the cleanup. It’s “pack behavior.” They do this all together. I have reached the point that I no longer want to host these events. I feel uncomfortable in my own home. Jonah and I have started cutting back on the number of parties we host, and now they are making rude comments about it. My husband acknowledges that they’re a bunch of miserable, rude people, but that doesn’t help the situation. I don’t want anything to do with them, and I don’t want to be forced to keep inviting a bunch of

ungrateful individuals who don’t have even the common courtesy to speak to me. How can I make Jonah understand how I feel? Please help. — **ANNOYED IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR ANNOYED: If you have expressed to your husband what you have written in your letter, he does understand, but doesn’t want to acknowledge it. The way his family has treated you is deplorable. If you don’t wish to entertain them, let your husband buy and prepare the food and do the cleanup with no help from them afterward, while you go and do something alone or with people whose company you enjoy. He can also visit his relatives without you if he wishes.

WORKERS

Continued from Page B1

workers were paid less, meaning they worked some fraction of the year.

The state government’s payroll grew by more than 2,500 workers from the previous fiscal year, although some of the number could represent increased turnover if more workers left partway through the year and were replaced by new hires. State data does not indicate how many months of the year each employee worked.

Most of the increase was at the Oregon Military Department, which had 1,013 more employees than in the previous fiscal year. Stephen Bomar, public affairs director for the agency, said fluctuations in staffing numbers reflect the numbers of Oregon National Guard members called to “state active duty,” at which time they become temporary state employees. Gov. Kate Brown has tapped the Guard to help with emergencies ranging from wildfires and floods to the 2021 ice storm and hospital staffing shortages, including ongoing support work at the state psychiatric hospital.

The second largest staffing increase was at the Employment Department, which increased its staffing year-over-year by 703 as the agency worked to catch up on getting jobless benefits out to people who lost work starting early in the pandemic. Oregon’s public health agency boosted its workforce by 308 people and the human services department had 298 more workers than in the previous year.

Overall, the state government spent \$3 billion on employee pay in 2021, up 7.1% from fiscal 2020 when it spent \$2.8 billion.

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REBEL

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The store’s one-year anniversary falls on Local Yarn Store Day, a day celebrated on Saturday, April 30, to highlight unique local yarn stores.

Sager was able to open the storefront through the city’s best business plan competition in 2021, expediting the process of switching from an online format to in-person storefront.

“It happened pretty fast and then it was just about hitting the ground running,” she said.

Sager started selling dyed yarn online in 2010, knitting hats and gloves during the cold weather in Alaska. The Rebel Woolworks owner moved to La Grande in May of 2020 and was intrigued with the town’s downtown area. Less than two years later, Sager’s business has become a staple to the business landscape.

While the trade secrets of selling online versus in a storefront can be quite

different, Sager noted that catching the attention of passersby in La Grande resembles catching the eye of an online shopper on an e-commerce website — first impressions are essential. Settling into a physical location brought about new challenges and possibilities, but Sager said she felt fully settled by around this February.

One year into business, Rebel Woolworks has elevated its available services as well as the overall setup of the store. The business now includes a mercantile on the left side of the space, offering teas, coffees, gourmet desserts and other goods from local stores around the Pacific Northwest. Sager stated that the mercantile serves as a good resource for customers on their way to go camping or just passing by on a day trip through the area.

Sager reflected on her growth as a store owner after a year, noting that

she is continuing to improve the overall services and quality of the business. Located in a prime downtown area in La Grande, Rebel Woolworks emphasizes local connections and return customers. A large quantity of the store’s business is return customers, whom Sager often does customized yarn dyes for.

“It happened pretty fast and then it was just about hitting the ground running,” she said.

—Tara Sager, operator of Rebel Woolworks

“I think what sets me apart from a regular yarn store is that people can come in and get custom items,” Sager said. “I really like that aspect of it.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has had negative effects to businesses across the region and the entire country, but Rebel Woolworks has made the best of its situation. Being

conceived during the pandemic, the then-online store utilized e-commerce sales when individuals were looking for a hobby or new trade to pick up while quarantined inside their homes in 2020. Online sales of yarn saw massive gains, with Sager shipping off her product all across the country and beyond its borders.

“COVID impacted so many businesses detrimentally, but I was kind of a COVID born business, because I started this in January of 2020,” she said. “I could not keep the yarn in stock. I couldn’t dye yarn fast enough.”

Sager and Rebel Woolworks have optimized the space for private events, which the store holds roughly two to three times per month. Sager provides necessary equipment like sewing machines, as well as wine, charcuterie boards, tea or any other requested snacks for groups to

gather in the space.

Serving as the chair of the promotions committee within the La Grande Main Street Downtown Association, Sager is aiming for her shop to assist the city in cultivating a thriving downtown. Rebel Woolworks benefits from foot traffic on Adams Avenue from locals and passersby alike, which is an objective within the La Grande Economic Development Department’s strategy plan for 2022-24. The business also emphasizes local connections with surrounding stores to improve the overall local economy and organize events to draw in foot traffic.

“The storefront has grown more than I expected it to, which is really awesome,” Sager said. “It’s been with the help of La Grande Main Street Downtown Association and Taylor Scroggins and having Timothy Bishop come in as the new economic development director and moving things forward.”

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weather

TONIGHT Partly cloudy; very cold Baker City 18 Comfort Index™ 0	FRI Cloudy; snow at night 43 26 0	SAT Cloudy with a bit of rain 42 21 0	SUN Mostly cloudy and chilly 48 27 0	MON Sun through high clouds 53 33 2
La Grande 20 Comfort Index™ 0	44 30 0	42 24 0	49 34 0	54 37 3
Enterprise 15 Comfort Index™ 0	39 25 0	41 23 0	46 28 3	51 37 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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Tuesday	40°	42°	44°
Low Tuesday	26°	28°	29°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	Trace	0.01	0.51
Month to date	0.17	0.16	1.63
Normal month to date	0.32	0.69	0.98
Year to date	0.84	2.54	8.82
Normal year to date	2.38	5.31	8.84

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 106°	Cotulla, Texas
Low: 0°	Daniel, Wyo.
Wettest: 1.79"	Nashville, Tenn.
OREGON	
High: 53°	The Dalles
Low: 14°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 1.09"	Meacham

WEATHER HISTORY

The famous “Easter Blizzard” hit Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota on April 14, 1873. A strong gale blew wet snow into huge drifts; many settlers were lost.

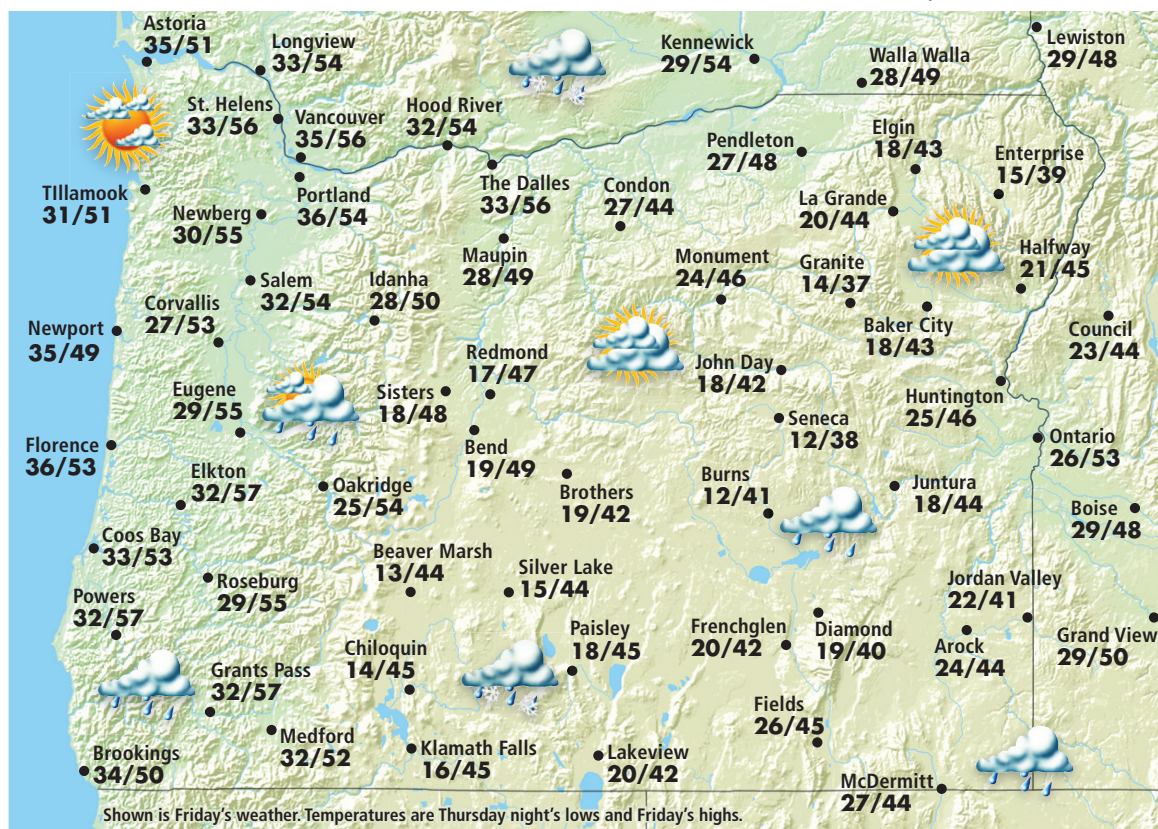
SUN & MOON

Sunrise	6:09 a.m.	FRI.	6:07 a.m.
Sunset	7:37 p.m.	SAT.	7:38 p.m.
Moonrise	5:24 p.m.	SUN.	6:39 p.m.
Moonset	5:35 a.m.	MON.	5:56 a.m.

MOON PHASES	Full	Last	New	First
	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 8

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022



REGIONAL CITIES

	FRI.	SAT.		FRI.	SAT.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	51/35/r	48/36/sf	Lewiston	48/32/c	46/34/c
Bend	49/31/c	43/24/sf	Longview	54/33/c	50/32/sh
Boise	48/37/c	52/32/sh	Meacham	42/30/sh	41/23/sn
Brookings	50/39/c	50/38/c	Medford	52/39/c	53/32/c
Burns	41/25/c	43/18/sh	Newport	49/38/c	47/37/sh
Coos Bay	53/40/c	52/34/sh	Olympia	57/31/c	49/35/c
Corvallis	53/35/sh	52/33/sh	Ontario	53/36/pc	56/27/sh
Council	44/29/c	44/23/sh	Pasco	55/34/c	50/34/r
Elgin	43/28/sh	42/23/r	Pendleton	48/33/sn	43/30/r
Eugene	55/37/c	52/33/sh	Portland	54/39/c	52/38/sh
Hermiston	55/35/c	49/32/r	Powers	57/37/c	53/35/sh
Hood River	54/37/c	49/34/r	Redmond	47/28/c	45/22/c
Imnaha	47/29/c	46/32/r	Roseburg	55/37/c	55/33/sh
John Day	42/28/c	41/24/r	Salem	54/38/c	53/35/sh
Joseph	39/24/sn	41/21/r	Spokane	46/29/sn	45/30/r
Kennewick	54/38/c	49/37/r	The Dalles	56/37/c	54/35/r
Klamath Falls	45/33/c	42/20/sh	Ukiah	43/28/c	39/22/c
Lakeview	42/30/sn	45/19/sh	Walla Walla	49/35/c	43/34/r

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A little snow	19	14	PHILLIPS LAKE A little a.m. snow	40	27
MT. EMILY REC. A little icy mix	29	23	BROWNLEE RES. Morning flurries	49	33
EAGLE CAP WILD. A little snow	26	15	EMIGRANT ST. PARK A little a.m. snow	36	24
WALLOWA LAKE Snow	39	24	MCKAY RESERVOIR Rain and snow	46	32
THIEF VALLEY RES. Cloudy and cold	43	26	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Chilly with clouds	44	30

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