

Elderly pair's connection ruffles feathers for some



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: Two and a half years ago we lost my dad, who was 94. He and Mom had been married 72 years. She entered assisted living right before COVID — with all its difficulties — set in. We made it through that, we're all vaccinated now and her facility has opened back up.

Mom has met and befriended a similarly aged widower. They eat together, walk, attend activities and enjoy sitting and talking together every day. He always walks her back to her

room and nicely bids her a good night. They reach for one another's hands to hold while talking about their departed spouses and are a source of great comfort for each other. I learned about this friendship from facility staff, so I had time to digest it alone before talking with my mother about it.

At first, I was nervous because I did not want her to be hurt. But I quickly realized that this relationship is very good for both of them, as they share similar histories and circumstances.

Mom has recently found out that this man's daughters are upset about their friendship, and she feels badly about it. She says she would never do anything to hurt him. I've told her she needs to give his daughters time to

wrap their minds around their friendship. Abby, what can I do to help the daughters build trust in this situation?

— **DELICATE SITUATION IN ARKANSAS**

DEAR DELICATE SITUATION: Your mother's is not the first romance to blossom in a situation like this, and it won't be the last. What has happened is a blessing, and I hope the man's daughters will come to regard it as one. Reaching out to them isn't a bad idea, if you think it may calm the situation and you can do it without making them more defensive than they already appear to be. The older folks are doing nothing wrong. They have a right to be happy in their remaining years. If there is a religious adviser connected to the assisted living facility, he or she might

be able to help you.

DEAR ABBY: I come from a very small town which has only one school. My sister recently returned to attend her 50th class reunion. It was very informal and held in a local tavern. The event was announced on social media, but no formal invitations were sent out.

When my sister spotted a man who had graduated the following year, she approached him and asked, "What are you doing here? You didn't graduate with our class." He answered that he had participated in sports with a number of the graduates and wanted to see them again.

Considering that the event was casual, held in a public place and that my

sister didn't organize the event, send out invitations or act as a hostess, I thought her remark was out of line and mean. She strongly disagrees. What do you think? — **SMALL-TOWN SIS IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR SIS: Depending upon your sister's tone of voice (and degree of sobriety) when she asked that question, it may have come across as an expression of surprise or curiosity. However, if it was asked in a hostile or accusatory manner, I agree with you that it was out of line and mean.

■ *Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

Weather

Continued from B1

Curious, I called up on my phone the morning forecast discussion from the National Weather Service office in Boise, which issues forecasts for Baker County (the agency's Pendleton office handles the rest of Northeastern Oregon).

The forecast discussion is in effect the story behind the familiar forecast with its terse predictions of cloud and precipitation and temperature. In the forecast discussion meteorologists write a brief overview (typically a few hundred to several hundred words) of the situation, including both what the models say and what's actually happening outside.

The discussion from the Boise office on Thursday morning included a term I don't recall seeing before in that forum.

"A huge miss."

At that point, the storm had brought about half as much snow as the models predicted. To be fair, the Weather Service's meteorologists had noted, a few days earlier, that the predicted pattern was conducive to a significant rain shadow effect that might severely limit snow amounts in the valleys.

Yet as late as Tuesday, the agency's new snowfall prediction system had a 73% chance that 4 inches or more would fall in Baker City.

A huge miss, indeed. (Snow did finally fall, even heavy at times, for a few hours Thursday morning with the arrival of a cold front. But the accumulation was still substantially less than the forecasts from just two days earlier. It was, however, rather more snow than the models, apparently chastened by their recent exaggeration, had predicted just the evening before. In other words, the models first forecast too much snow, then, the next day, too little.)



Moving snow from a downtown Baker City sidewalk during a previous winter.

S. John Collins/Baker City Herald, File

But occasionally a forecast misses so badly — the equivalent to a punt that goes sideways — that people are apt to notice. Such was the case this week when the latest in a series of winter storms moved into Oregon.

The lesson here is that weather is complicated.

This is hardly a revelation, of course.

The track a storm takes, and whether it brings rain or snow or neither, depends on complex interactions between thousands of factors that can only be estimated, but not measured

with anything like precision.

Computer weather models are far more sophisticated than they were just a decade ago, and the relative accuracy of forecasts, even out to four or five days, reflects this.

I think we've become accustomed to this general reliability. When the Weather Service says

it's going to snow tomorrow, we make sure the shovel is handy. We're rarely taken wholly by surprise by inclement weather. But occasionally, just as the best punters sometimes drop the snap or shank the kick, the models are humbled by nature.

■ *Jayson Jacoby is editor of the Baker City Herald.*



Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering a \$5 discount on its 12-month parking permit.

State parks offer discount on parking permits

EO Media Group

Just in time for the holiday season, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is offering a \$5 discount on its 12-month parking permit, lowering the regular cost from \$30 to \$25.

Holiday shoppers can purchase the annual parking permit between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31. The pass is good for 12 months starting in the month of purchase.

Permits can be purchased online through Oregon State Parks store (stateparks.oregon.gov). From the Visit dropdown tab click Day Use Parking Permits. Parking permits are also available in Bend at REI and the Visit Bend office, and in Sisters at Bi-Mart.

Parking permits are required at 25 Oregon state parks, including Tumalo State Park and Smith Rock State Park. Without a permit, parking is \$5 a day.

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

weather

| | TONIGHT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Considerable cloudiness | Cloudy, p.m. snow showers | A bit of morning snow | A rain or snow shower | Chilly with low clouds |
| Baker City | 17 | 34 19 | 30 18 | 29 17 | 31 18 |
| La Grande | 24 | 32 27 | 34 22 | 34 27 | 35 21 |
| Enterprise | 25 | 38 26 | 35 19 | 33 20 | 33 21 |
| Comfort Index™ | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

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 | 38° | 39° | 40° |
| Low Thursday | 13° | 22° | 26° |
| PRECIPITATION (inches) | | | |
| Thursday | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.31 |
| Month to date | 0.01 | 0.19 | 0.31 |
| Normal month to date | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.14 |
| Year to date | 6.45 | 14.23 | 27.29 |
| Normal year to date | 8.24 | 15.59 | 22.32 |

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

| HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Lowest relative humidity | 50% |
| Afternoon wind | S at 6 to 12 mph |
| Hours of sunshine | 0.4 |
| Evapotranspiration | 0.04 |

| RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday) | |
|---|-----------------|
| Phillips Reservoir | 1% of capacity |
| Unity Reservoir | 31% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir | 11% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir | 27% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake | 11% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 14% of capacity |

| STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday) | |
|--|---------|
| Grande Ronde at Troy | 936 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 3 cfs |
| Burnt River near Unity | 8 cfs |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon | 82 cfs |
| Minam River at Minam | N.A. |
| Powder River near Richland | 46 cfs |

THURSDAY EXTREMES

| NATION (for the 48 contiguous states) | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| High: 85° | Marathon, Fla. |
| Low: -13° | Daniel, Wyo. |
| Wettest: 2.36" | Paradise, Calif. |

| OREGON | |
|----------------|-------------|
| High: 47° | The Dalles |
| Low: 15° | Crater Lake |
| Wettest: 0.51" | Meacham |

WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 3, 1886, a storm dropped more than a foot of snow from central Alabama to the western Carolinas. Rome, Ga., received 25 inches, and Asheville, N.C., had 33 inches.

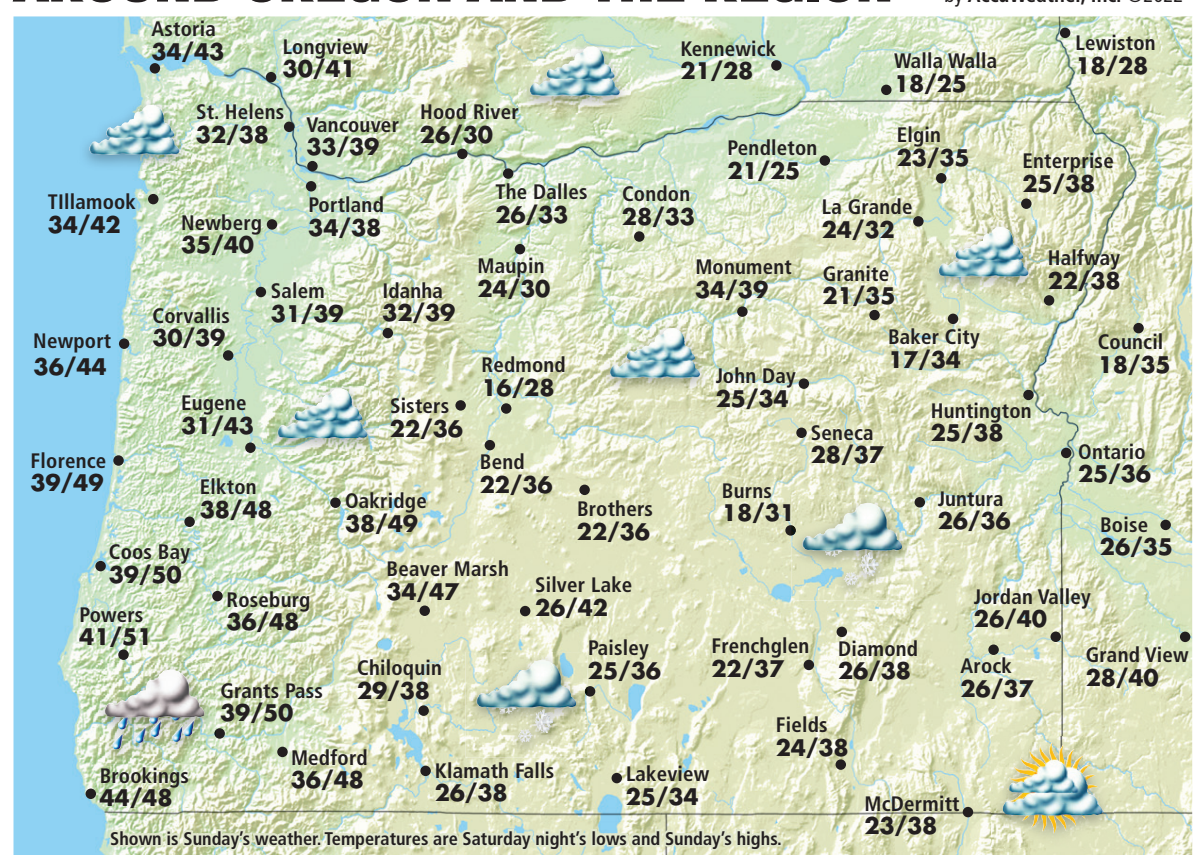
SUN & MOON

| | SAT. | SUN. |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sunrise | 7:13 a.m. | 7:15 a.m. |
| Sunset | 4:10 p.m. | 4:10 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 2:00 p.m. | 2:19 p.m. |
| Moonset | 2:24 a.m. | 3:34 a.m. |

| MOON PHASES | |
|-------------|--------|
| Full | Dec 7 |
| Last | Dec 16 |
| New | Dec 23 |
| First | Dec 29 |

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

| City | SUN. HI/Lo/W | MON. HI/Lo/W | City | SUN. HI/Lo/W | MON. HI/Lo/W |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Astoria | 43/35/pc | 46/39/c | Lewiston | 28/24/sf | 30/28/sf |
| Bend | 36/20/sn | 37/19/c | Longview | 41/33/c | 45/38/c |
| Boise | 35/25/sf | 34/25/c | Meacham | 32/26/sf | 33/20/sn |
| Brookings | 48/41/r | 51/35/pc | Medford | 48/32/sh | 44/32/pc |
| Burns | 31/10/sn | 29/14/c | Newport | 44/36/sh | 49/39/c |
| Coos Bay | 50/35/sh | 51/36/c | Olympia | 39/28/pc | 40/30/c |
| Corvallis | 39/32/sh | 44/34/c | Ontario | 36/23/sf | 34/23/c |
| Council | 35/25/sf | 32/22/c | Pasco | 29/25/sf | 31/22/pc |
| Elgin | 35/28/sf | 37/23/sn | Pendleton | 25/23/sf | 31/20/i |
| Eugene | 43/32/sh | 44/33/c | Portland | 38/34/c | 40/36/c |
| Hermiston | 29/24/sf | 32/23/c | Powers | 51/35/sh | 53/37/pc |
| Hood River | 30/28/sf | 37/32/c | Redmond | 28/19/sn | 38/19/c |
| Imnaha | 35/24/sf | 35/20/sn | Roseburg | 48/34/sh | 46/32/c |
| John Day | 34/25/sn | 33/22/c | Salem | 39/35/sh | 44/35/c |
| Joseph | 39/25/sn | 35/19/c | Spokane | 24/17/sf | 24/19/c |
| Kennewick | 28/22/sf | 30/22/pc | The Dalles | 33/27/sf | 35/28/c |
| Klamath Falls | 38/24/sn | 36/20/pc | Ukiah | 33/24/sn | 32/17/c |
| Lakeview | 34/18/sn | 30/14/c | Walla Walla | 25/21/sf | 28/24/c |

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

| ANTHONY LAKES | PHILLIPS LAKE |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Snow, 1-3" | A little snow |
| 27 15 | 36 20 |
| MT. EMILY REC. | BROWNLEE RES. |
| A little snow | Snow at times |
| 31 24 | 40 24 |
| EAGLE CAP WILD. | EMIGRANT ST. PARK |
| Cloudy, snow, 1-2" | A little p.m. snow |
| 32 16 | 29 23 |
| WALLOWA LAKE | MCKAY RESERVOIR |
| A little snow | P.M. snow showers |
| 39 25 | 26 24 |
| THIEF VALLEY RES. | RED BRIDGE ST. PARK |
| A little snow | P.M. snow showers |
| 34 19 | 32 27 |