

Mother’s extreme behavior disrupts family gatherings

DEAR ABBY: My mother is 86 and drives everyone in the family crazy when we have to spend time with her. She says things that make people cringe. She’s racist, homophobic, judgmental and critical of everybody and everything.

When we try to point out that what she says hurts people, she starts going into how much she is hurt -- daily -- by all of us, how “mean” we are to her, and how we are her family and need to be more loving. We all feel sorry for her and hate how lonely she is. We include her in all major holidays and family celebrations, but she is usually the cause of a major blowup or an overall downer for the gathering.

I wish I could help her see that she’s her own worst enemy. I hate the idea of excluding Mom from family gatherings, but it is nearing that point. She has no friends. She goes to radical political meetings and constantly tries to push her health products on us.

Do you have any suggestions for how to respond to someone who is so difficult for the whole family? I do love Mom and care about her, but am at my wits’ end.

-- REACHED THE END OF MY ROPE
DEAR REACHED: Your mother isn’t friendless. Her friends are the kindred spirits she sees at the radical political meetings. Because she disrupts family gatherings, you and your siblings need to work out a schedule so each of you sees Mom and takes her out individually. Ignore her comments as much as possible.

Will it be fun? Probably not. But more of her time will be filled, and you all will be able to enjoy the celebrations with her absent.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a receptionist. There’s a growing trend that people don’t bother to listen to their voicemail. Instead they’ll call our firm and say, “Someone from your office called me. I want to speak with them.” They get angry with me when I tell them I have no way of knowing who called them. Our firm is a large one.

I don’t know why people are so lazy and inconsiderate that they don’t listen to their messages. In a couple of instances important information was left on their voicemail, and the person missed critical deadlines that cost us money. The head of my firm deals with a lot of younger clients, and it seems the younger the person is, the less likely they will listen to any

of their voicemails, or their voicemail boxes are full, so it’s impossible to leave a message for them.

-- FRUSTRATED RECEPTIONIST

DEAR FRUSTRATED: If someone calls the main number, it may be that it’s the one that showed up on the person’s phone. Tell the caller that he or she has reached the MAIN number, and you need the name of the person

before you can make the connection. It’s the truth. It might also be helpful to suggest to your boss that because younger clients often don’t listen to their voicemails or pick up when their phone rings, sending them an email or text might be more efficient.

DEAR ABBY: My sister “Thea” has distanced herself from the family. I understand why she did. Our parents were mentally, physically and emotionally abusive while we were growing up, with one who instigated the issues and the other taking it out on us kids.

I feel stuck in the middle of chaos. My parents have started to work on their behaviors and make amends for past conduct. It comes a bit too late for apologies, even for me, but I decided to give them a second chance since they seem sincere. Thea told them she wants nothing to do with them.

Recently, she contacted me asking me to suggest that my parents help out a family member who was in dire straits. I told Thea I would suggest it, but I couldn’t guarantee what their response would be. Their response was that if she wanted something from them, she needed to ask them herself and not through an intermediary.

I’m at a loss as to how to tell both sides that I’m tired of being the middleman, as this has become an emotional thing between all parties involved. I’m also not sure how to open the discussion for them to air their differences whether they reconcile or not. Help!

-- STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR STUCK: Thea has cut herself off from your parents for good reason. You are no more “in the middle” than you want to be. Tell your sister that if a family member is in trouble, that person should approach your parents and ask for help, not do it through you or another intermediary.



DEAR ABBY

Trump promises more hurricane relief for Florida Panhandle

By Zeke Miller
The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump promised a swift infusion of federal aid to the Florida Panhandle seven months after devastating Hurricane Michael as he rallied supporters Wednesday for his re-election.

Trump addressed a crowd of thousands at an outdoor amphitheater, looking to rally loyalists in the reliably Republican corner of the swing state as he kicks his 2020 efforts into high gear. Federal emergency funds to the area hit by the Category 5 hurricane and elsewhere have been caught up in a Washington standoff over Trump’s opposition to more hurricane aid for Puerto Rico.

“You’re getting your money one way or another,” Trump promised supporters in Panama City Beach, holding up a chart showing federal emergency aid to Florida, Texas and the island territory, “And we’re not going to let anybody hold it up.”

Trump took a victory lap after last week’s jobs report showing the nation’s unemployment at a generational low, crediting his cuts to taxes and regulations.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who accompanied the president to Florida on Air Force One, said the 2020 election was a referendum on whether to allow Democrats to undo Trump policies like tax reform.

“This election is about reversing all of that,” he said. “It’s about going backward

on all of that.”

Trump earlier surveyed recovery efforts and lingering damage from last year’s storm, and he announced the Department of Housing and Urban Development would be granting \$448 million to the state for hurricane response.

“We’ve already given you billions and billions of dollars and there’s a lot more coming,” Trump said.

Trump was greeted by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and local elected officials as he arrived at Tyndall Air Force Base, which was severely affected by the storm. Almost every building appeared damaged in some way, including a collapsed hangar.

The White House said almost all 700 structures on the base were damaged, roughly one-third were destroyed, and 11,000 base personnel were evacuated. The White House blamed “Democrat obstruction” for a stoppage in recovery work, with about 120 projects being deferred.

After touring the base, Trump took credit for rebuffing some who wanted to close the base as a result of the damage, promising officials it will be rebuilt “better than ever.”

The area has received about \$1.1 billion in federal disaster aid through mid-April, but disagreements in Washington have left many still struggling to recover from the storm.

Trump repeated his claim that \$91 billion has been spent in Puerto Rico, and said falsely it was the largest-ever federal disaster

program. According to the White House, Trump’s \$91 billion figure includes about \$50 billion in expected future disaster disbursements that could span decades, along with \$41 billion already approved. Actual aid to Puerto Rico has flowed more slowly from federal coffers — about \$11 billion so far.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said House Democrats were once again taking up a \$17.2 billion disaster relief package this week, with added money for Midwestern and Southern states hit by recent storms. But she said Senate Republicans have been more committed to “hurting our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico than healing communities everywhere.”

“Meanwhile, the president has doubled down on Republicans’ callousness” by delaying assistance payments to the island, she said.

The campaign rally comes as Trump and congressional Democrats are locked in a bitter fight over constitutional powers related to special counsel Robert Mueller’s report and probes into the president’s tax returns.

Trump called on Democrats to stop the investigations and work with his administration to boost infrastructure spending, predicting their efforts would boost his re-election chances.

“They want to do investigations instead of investments,” said Trump. “I think it drives us right on to victory in 2020.”

AccuWeather

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

weather

TONIGHT

Clear

Baker City 35

Comfort Index™ 8

SAT

Sunny and very warm

Baker City 82 43

Comfort Index™ 6

SUN

Mostly sunny and warm

Baker City 85 44

Comfort Index™ 6

MON

Partly sunny and warm

Baker City 82 44

Comfort Index™ 8

TUE

Partly sunny and warm

Baker City 82 46

Comfort Index™ 8

La Grande 44

Comfort Index™ 10

La Grande 80 49

Comfort Index™ 8

La Grande 82 48

Comfort Index™ 6

La Grande 77 44

Comfort Index™ 8

La Grande 77 49

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 42

Comfort Index™ 9

Enterprise 78 45

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 79 45

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 76 41

Comfort Index™ 8

Enterprise 74 48

Comfort Index™ 8

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 Wednesday

73°

71°

71°

Low Wednesday

38°

41°

39°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Wednesday

0.00

Trace

0.02

Month to date

0.00

Trace

0.02

Normal month to date

0.34

0.50

0.58

Year to date

4.47

7.22

16.94

Normal year to date

3.39

6.31

10.27

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 104°

Death Valley, Calif.

Low: 17°

Doe Lake, Mich.

Wettest: 4.50"

Mineola, Texas

OREGON

High: 85°

The Dalles

Low: 33°

Odell Lake

Wettest: Trace

La Grande

WEATHER HISTORY

On May 10, 1889, tornadoes hit several eastern Pennsylvania communities, including Reading, Pottsville, Shamokin and Philadelphia.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise

5:29 a.m.

5:28 a.m.

Sunset

8:09 p.m.

8:11 p.m.

Moonrise

10:31 a.m.

11:42 a.m.

Moonset

1:11 a.m.

1:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First

Full

Last

New

May 11

May 18

May 26

Jun 3

REGIONAL CITIES

SAT.

SUN.

City

Hi/Low/W

Hi/Low/W

Astoria

66/51/s

61/48/s

Bend

83/47/s

83/46/s

Boise

80/52/s

87/55/s

Brookings

60/48/s

60/47/s

Burns

79/45/s

83/47/s

Coos Bay

63/48/s

61/46/s

Corvallis

84/48/s

78/46/s

Council

78/46/s

82/48/s

Elgin

80/48/s

81/47/s

Eugene

86/46/s

79/45/s

Hermiston

90/59/s

90/59/s

Hood River

89/58/s

83/54/s

Imnaha

83/48/s

85/51/s

John Day

81/49/s

83/50/s

Joseph

78/43/s

79/44/s

Kennewick

91/60/s

92/58/s

Klamath Falls

80/42/s

81/43/s

Lakeview

76/42/s

78/44/s

SAT.

SUN.

City

Hi/Low/W

Hi/Low/W

Lewiston

85/56/s

87/55/s

Longview

86/50/s

86/50/s

Meacham

78/46/s

80/45/s

Medford

92/54/s

89/52/s

Newport

60/48/s

60/48/s

Olympia

87/46/s

74/44/s

Ontario

85/51/s

89/56/s

Pasco

92/59/s

94/57/s

Pendleton

84/57/s

85/56/s

Portland

89/55/s

80/53/s

Powers

77/49/s

74/49/s

Redmond

86/45/s

85/44/s

Roseburg

90/50/s

84/49/s

Salem

86/49/s

79/47/s

Spokane

82/56/s

83/55/s

The Dalles

91/60/s

86/57/s

Ukiah

78/43/s

80/44/s

Walla Walla

86/62/s

88/60/s

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Sunny and mild

54

37

MT. EMILY REC.

Sunny and mild

67

46

EAGLE CAP WILD.

Sunny and warm

62

37

WALLOWA LAKE

Sunny and warm

78

43

THIEF VALLEY RES.

Sunny and warm

82

43

PHILLIPS LAKE

Sunny and warm

77

42

BROWNLEE RES.

Sunny and warm

82

48

EMIGRANT ST. PARK

Sunny and warm

75

40

MCKAY RESERVOIR

Sunny and warm

84

56

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK

Sunny and warm

80

49

GO

NORTH EAST OREGON

Download & Explore Everything in NE Oregon

it's free and available at

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play