Man who won't fight fair turns arguments into battles

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am in a nearly two-year relationship with a man I love. In so many ways, this is the relationship I've always hoped for and, being in my early 30s, I'm feeling ready to settle down. The problem? He doesn't fight fair.

I have put an exorbitant amount of effort into remaining calm and loving during arguments to prevent our relationship from deteriorating, but he seems incapable of meeting me halfway. His unfair fighting comes in the form of aggressive tones, obscene faces, looking at his phone while I'm talking and sometimes ignoring me entirely.

These arguments are usually over minor issues that are nowhere near warranting a full-blown fight (for example, dishes not being done when he came home from work because I work from home and put it off to do during nonwork hours).

Our relationship is otherwise great, but if I'm going to commit to someone for life, I want them to be capable of having calm and healthy conversations. He thinks I'm controlling when I ask him not to use aggressive tones or make faces. What do I do?

— FIGHTING FAIR IN OREGON

DEAR FIGHTING: I will assume that the man you are in love with is around the same age as you. By the time someone reaches their 30s, their personalities are usually set. This man behaves the way he does because it works for him. It enables HIM to control YOU.

If he values your relationship, he should be willing to discuss this in couples counseling so these conversations are constructive rather than adversarial. If he isn't, however, keep looking for a more suitable mate because this Mister ain't Wonderful.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to alert your readers to something that happened to me so it may keep it from happening to them. In her later years, my dear mother was afflicted with dementia. When it became clear she could no longer live alone, I went to live with her.

One day, I went looking for the albums of photos from when my brothers and I were kids, family vacations, etc. After searching high and low and not finding them, I asked Mom what had happened to them. Turns out, she threw them out because she didn't remember any of the people in the pictures! To say I was devastated would be an understatement.

I couldn't be angry with Mom. It wasn't her fault. But Abby, your readers need to know that it can happen to them. My mother has been gone for 10 years, and I still wish I had those photos.

— MISSING MEMORIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MISSING: I'm glad you wrote. Your letter is a reminder that when family members begin to age, it's important to make the time to sit down with them and go through family pictures. My own dear mother urged her readers to not only review those photos, but also to write on the backs the date they were taken and the names of who is in them. This is a precious gift because memories do start to fade. It can stimulate wonderful conversations if people are willing to make the effort.

DEAR ABBY: I have a male best friend I adore. When I tell other men about my bestie, they feel intimidated because he has a key to my apartment. We are not dating; we just have sex sometimes, and everyone that I try to be with knows about him. Must I give up on my bestie to be with the man I love even though Bestie and I promised each other that we will never break our bond for anyone?

— COMPLICATED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR COMPLICATED: If you hadn't been having sex sometimes with your bestie, the "man you love" might have been able to accept him. The answer to your question is yes, you WILL have to make a choice. Now, the question I have for you is, which man do you think is the keeper?

News of the Weird

Oklahoma lawmaker proposes 'Bigfoot' hunting season

OKLAHOMA CITY — A mythical, ape-like creature that has captured the imagination of adventurers for decades has now become the target of a state lawmaker in Oklahoma.

A Republican House member has introduced a bill that would create a Bigfoot hunting season. Rep. Justin Humphrey's district includes the heavily forested Ouachita Mountains in southeast Oklahoma, where a Bigfoot festival is held each year near the Arkansas border. He said issuing a state hunting license and tag could help boost tourism.

"Establishing an actual hunting season and issuing licenses for people who want to hunt Bigfoot will just draw more people to our already beautiful part of the state," Humphrey said in a statement.

Humphrey said his bill only would allow trapping and he also hopes to secure $25,000 to be offered as a bounty.

Micah Holmes, a spokesperson for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, which oversees hunting in Oklahoma, told television station KOCO the agency uses science-driven research and doesn't recognize Bigfoot.

Steve Gooch/The Oklahoman via AP, File

Oklahoma State Rep. Justin Humphrey prepares to speak Feb. 14, 2017, at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City. A mythical, ape-like creature that has captured the imagination of adventurers for decades has become the target of Humphrey. The Republican House member has introduced a bill that would create a Bigfoot hunting season. He says issuing a state hunting license and tag could help boost tourism.

Robert F. Bukaty/AP Photo, File

An Atlantic puffin in this July 19, 2019 photo carries bait fish it will feed its chick on Eastern Egg Rock, a small island off the coast of Maine. New protections to the herring population, a key food source for puffins, could help the birds survive. The puffins nest in the summer off Maine's mid-coast region, where they are a popular tourist draw. But lobstermen use herring to bait their traps, as well.

Puffin stuff: Herring rules could boost funny-looking bird

BATH, Maine — The commercial fishery for herring has suffered in recent years due to new restrictions, but those same rules could benefit some of Maine's most beloved birds — puffins.

Atlantic puffins, known for their colorful beaks and waddling walks, were once nearly gone from Maine, the only U.S. state where they nest. Decades of conservation work have brought Maine's population of the birds to about 1,300 pairs that nest on small islands off the coast.

Those same Gulf of Maine waters are an important area for the U.S. herring fishery. The fishery has had to contend with quota cuts in recent years because of federal efforts to protect the fish's population, and more restrictions are on the way.

The U.S. catch of herring, based mostly in Maine and Massachusetts, fell from more than 200 million pounds in 2014 to less than 25 million pounds in 2019.

Puffins are dependent on small fish to survive, and new protections to the herring population could help them do that, said Don Lyons, director of conservation science for the National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute in Bremen, Maine.

"Herring are certainly a key food source for puffins. The kind of fish they do best on, that they best raise chicks feeding," Lyons said. "The declines of herring over the last decade or longer have not been good for puffins."

The herring fishery is facing a new set of restrictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration starting Feb. 10. The restrictions include a prohibition on the use of certain fishing gear in inshore waters. They also include new rules that account for herring's role in the ecosystem, federal documents state.

That's good news for puffins, because small fish close to shore are vitally important for puffin parents to be able to feed chicks, Lyons said. But it's going to challenge herring fishermen, said Mary Beth Tooley, director of government affairs for O'Hara Corp., a large Rockland, Maine-based bait dealer and herring harvester.

Herring are economically important because lobster fishermen have used them to bait traps for generations. Shortages of herring have complicated that in recent years, and bait crunches have resulted.

The herring fishery is hopeful for higher catch limits in the future, but 2021 and 2022 could be difficult years, Tooley said.

"A number of businesses are concerned about their ability to be viable," she said. "In the very near short-term it has been a challenge."

The puffins nest in the summer on islands such as Eastern Egg Rock off Maine's mid-coast region, where they are a popular tourism draw. Lyons described the birds' Maine population as "steady" over the past five years, if not possibly a bit larger.

— Associated Press

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Cloudy with a shower	Rather cloudy	A morning flurry	Plenty of clouds	A little afternoon rain
Baker City	33	40 / 29	41 / 31	41 / 35	43 / 28
Comfort Index™	1	4	3	2	0
La Grande	33	40 / 29	43 / 34	45 / 38	44 / 32
Comfort Index™	0	3	3	3	1
Enterprise	33	39 / 29	42 / 33	44 / 37	46 / 33
Comfort Index™	1	0	4	3	1

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	39°	37°	37°
Low Tuesday	17°	24°	26°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	Trace	0.00
Month to date	0.37	1.02	4.27
Normal month to date	0.69	1.41	2.73
Year to date	0.37	1.02	4.27
Normal year to date	0.69	1.41	2.73

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	65%
Afternoon wind	NW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.2
Evapotranspiration	0.03
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	44% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	48% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	42% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	34% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	90% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	1420 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	10 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	16 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	136 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	31 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 87°	Zapata, Texas
Low: -31°	Crosby, N.D.
Wettest: 3.15"	Destin, Fla.
OREGON	
High: 44°	Brookings
Low: -5°	Burns
Wettest: 0.58"	Sexton Summit

WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 28, 1922, the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C., collapsed after a 25-inch snowfall. More than 100 people were killed instantly.

SUN & MOON

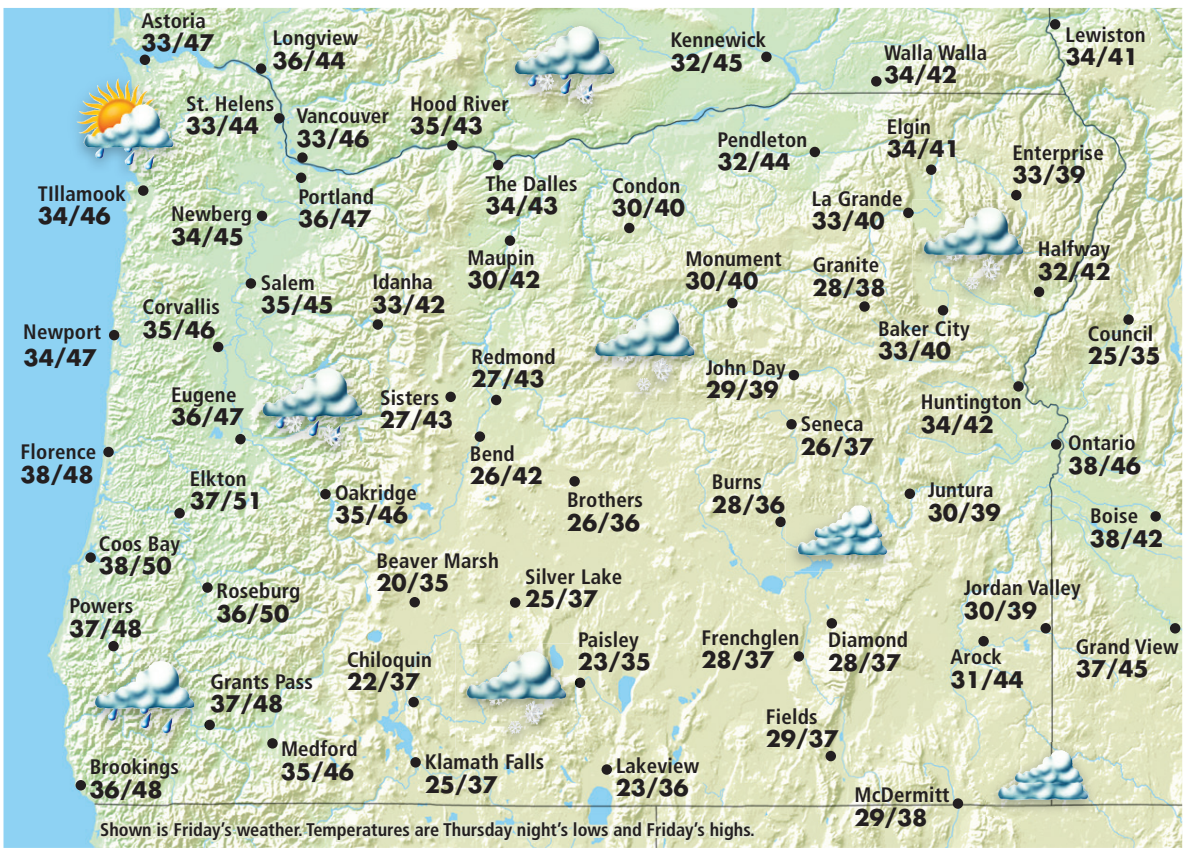
	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:17 a.m.	7:16 a.m.
Sunset	4:54 p.m.	4:55 p.m.
Moonrise	4:52 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Moonset	7:39 a.m.	8:15 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 19

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	City	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	SAT. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	47/39/pc	48/42/r	Lewiston	41/34/c	47/33/c
Bend	42/26/pc	45/33/c	Longview	44/39/c	47/43/r
Boise	42/31/r	45/34/c	Meacham	37/28/c	39/31/sn
Brookings	48/43/sh	51/46/r	Medford	46/36/c	50/39/c
Burns	36/24/c	38/23/c	Newport	47/41/pc	49/42/r
Coos Bay	50/41/pc	52/43/r	Olympia	46/37/c	46/41/c
Corvallis	46/38/pc	48/42/r	Ontario	46/32/sn	46/33/c
Council	35/22/sn	34/21/sn	Pasco	45/29/c	50/35/c
Elgin	41/31/c	44/35/c	Pendleton	44/34/c	46/35/c
Eugene	47/39/c	49/43/r	Portland	47/40/c	49/44/r
Hermiston	44/31/c	47/33/c	Powers	48/42/pc	49/43/r
Hood River	43/36/c	46/38/c	Redmond	43/28/pc	47/31/c
Imnaha	42/30/c	44/33/c	Roseburg	50/40/c	53/46/c
John Day	39/27/c	41/32/c	Salem	45/39/c	48/43/r
Joseph	38/26/sn	40/30/sf	Spokane	36/31/c	37/30/sn
Kennewick	45/30/c	48/34/c	The Dalles	43/35/c	44/33/c
Klamath Falls	37/28/c	40/32/c	Ukiah	38/27/c	40/31/c
Lakeview	36/25/c	37/27/sf	Walla Walla	42/35/c	49/36/r

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

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES
Mostly cloudy
33 20

MT. EMILY REC.
Mostly cloudy
37 27

EAGLE CAP WILD.
A little snow
34 19

WALLOWA LAKE
Rain/snow showers
38 26

THIEF VALLEY RES.
Mainly cloudy
40 29

PHILLIPS LAKE
Clearing
38 25

BROWNLEE RES.
A bit of ice
37 25

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Mostly cloudy
36 28

MCKAY RESERVOIR
Mostly cloudy
44 32

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Rather cloudy
40 29