

Story of wrongful conviction is shared without permission

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man in my late 40s, partnered with a man in his late 50s. There are a lot of issues from my past that I try hard to move beyond and let go of. I was wrongly accused and convicted of a crime I didn't commit, for which I was sentenced to life in prison.



DEAR ABBY

strangers to me. When they meet me, the first words out of their mouths are things like: "You poor man, I'm so sorry," or "Wow, I can't believe you went through that," and "Man, you must be a strong person to have gotten through that."

How do I move past this, if he keeps telling people a story that is NOT his to tell, but mine to disclose if I choose to do so? The shame and embarrassment of facing this trauma of my past on a regular basis isn't healthy for me. How can I get him to understand that he needs to stop doing it? I'm afraid to say anything to him about it. He dismisses my

feelings most of the time when I bring up things he does that upset me.

I love this man with all of my heart. He was one of only two people who stood by me during my trauma and made it possible to prove my innocence. He was also my "first." My love for him has only grown over the years, but this issue of my story being revealed has to stop.

— FRUSTRATED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR FRUSTRATED: You not only have to speak up, but you also have to be heard. That your much older partner dismisses your feelings is controlling and condescending. He has no right to disclose VERY personal information about you with strangers.

You wrote that this is your first relationship. If this continues, it may not be your last. Present it to your partner in exactly these terms. Couples counseling may save your relationship, but only if the balance of power is adjusted.

DEAR ABBY: I was friends with my guy before getting into a relationship with him seven years ago. The problem is, I feel like we are not growing. He is still living with his mom, we have no plans for the future, etc.

At least once a year, I ask him how he views our relationship, but I only get the same response that things are fine the way they are. I have now started back in college while maintaining a full-time job, but I'm so frus-

trated I feel like giving up on the relationship and moving on. I'm actually stuck between a breakup and keeping a friendship. Any advice?

— UNCERTAIN IN ALABAMA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Of course your "guy" thinks things are fine the way they are. They are — for him. I'm delighted you decided to return to college and get your degree. By doing so, you are taking control of your life, which is moving in the right direction.

Please understand that you may not only outgrow the relationship, but also this young man. By all means, keep him as a friend if you can. Be a role model if he's able to learn from your example, but continue to broaden your horizons.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Thousands of cold-stunned sea turtles being rescued in Texas

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — Residents, some of whom lack heat or basic amenities in their own homes due to the unusually chilly weather, have been rescuing cold-stunned sea turtles and taking them to a convention center in a South Texas resort town.

"Every 15 minutes or less there's another truck or SUV that pulls up," Ed Caum, executive director of the South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, told The Associated Press on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

He said sometimes people bring one or two sea turtles, sometimes more. "We had trailers full (Tuesday) coming in that had 80, 100, 50," he said.

The South Padre Island Convention Center started pitching in Monday when its neighbor, Sea Turtle Inc., could no longer handle the number of sea turtles being dropped off, and their mostly outdoor operation had lost power. He said the convention center itself didn't have power or water till early Wednesday morning.

He says they've "collected" more than 3,500 sea turtles so far. He said he hesitates to use the word rescued because "we know we're going to lose some."

Caum said that with another cold front approaching, they don't know when they'll be able to return the sea turtles to the water.



Miguel Roberts/The Brownsville Herald via AP

Thousands of Atlantic green sea turtles and Kemp's ridley sea turtles suffering from cold stun are laid out to recover Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at the South Padre Island Convention Center on South Padre Island, Texas.

Temperatures in the area on Wednesday afternoon were in the 40s. He said it may be Saturday — when temperatures are expected to reach the low 60s — before the turtles can be released back into the Gulf.

He said with power returned they have been able to bring the convention center's temperature to 60 degrees.

"We're trying to do the best we can to save as many turtles as possible," he said.

UK's chief mouser celebrates 10 years on the prowl

LONDON — Larry the cat, a four-legged inhabitant of London's 10 Downing St., marked a decade as Britain's mouse-catcher in chief on Monday, Feb. 15.

The tabby cat was

recruited by then-Prime Minister David Cameron to deal with a pack of rats seen scuttling close to the British leader's official residence, and entered Downing Street on Feb. 15, 2011.

The former stray, adopted from London's Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, was given the title Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, an unofficial pest control post. He was the first cat to hold the rat-catching portfolio since the retirement of Humphrey in 1997, and has loyally served three prime ministers.

But it seems like yesterday that Larry was just another cat — as opposed to a media superstar — said Lindsey Quinlan, the head of cattery of Battersea.

"Throughout his time at No.10, Larry has proven

himself to not only be a brilliant ambassador for Battersea but also demonstrated to millions of people around the world how incredible rescue cats are," she said. "His rags to riches tale is yet more proof of why all animals deserve a second chance — one minute they may be an overlooked stray on the streets, the next they could become one of the nation's beloved political figures, with fans around the world."

Larry, who has met a number of world leaders, has been largely unfriendly to men but took a liking to former U.S. President Barack Obama. When former President Donald Trump visited in 2019, Larry took a nap under his car.

His grip on the public imagination is clear —

and political leaders know better than to ignore that popularity. The tomcat was a sentimental topic of conversation in Cameron's final appearance in Parliament as prime minister when he said he wanted to quash a rumor that — perish the thought — he didn't like Larry.

And just to prove it, he whipped out evidence: a picture of Larry lying on his lap.

"He belongs to the house and the staff love him very much — as do I," he said at the time, explaining why he wasn't taking Larry with him after leaving office.

After the December 2019 election, rumors swirled that Larry might be headed for retirement with the news of the new prime minister, Boris Johnson, was a dog man.

However, despite the

prime minister moving Jack Russell cross Dilyn into Downing Street, Larry remained in office.

Reports of his rodent-killing abilities vary. Larry became known for his occasional scraps with neighboring cats — especially Palmerston, chief mouser to the Foreign Office across the street — and fondness for sleep. Palmerston has retired to the country, so things have been a bit quieter of late.

These days Larry, now 14, often is seen by photographers patrolling his turf.

Visitors to the building can sometimes find him napping on a ledge above a radiator or sleeping on a floor, where dignitaries occasionally have to step over him. At the heart of government, he specializes in power naps.

— Associated Press



Frank Augstein/AP Photo, File

In this May 21, 2020 photo, Larry, the official 10 Downing Street cat, walks outside 10 Downing Street before the nationwide Clap for Carers to recognize and support National Health Service workers and carers fighting the coronavirus pandemic in London. Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, marked the 10th anniversary of rescue cat Larry becoming Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office in a bid to deal with a rat problem at 10 Downing Street.

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weather

TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Partly to mostly cloudy	Showers of rain and snow	Milder; rain at night	Colder; a p.m. flurry	A shower in the afternoon
Baker City 26 / 3	37 29 0	41 31 3	39 24 1	40 21 3
La Grande 30 / 0	41 33 0	47 30 3	39 27 0	41 24 3
Enterprise 25 / 0	40 27 0	45 28 8	35 23 0	34 22 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	34°	34°	34°
Low Thursday	15°	10°	19°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.03	0.03	Trace
Month to date	0.31	2.70	3.80
Normal month to date	0.37	0.71	1.50
Year to date	0.68	3.74	8.11
Normal year to date	1.17	2.34	4.67

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 90° Immokalee, Fla.
 Low: -37° Ely, Minn.
 Wettest: 3.19" Walterboro, S.C.

OREGON

High: 52° North Bend
 Low: 4° Meacham
 Wettest: 0.74" Florence

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	SSW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	2.0
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	50% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	50% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	46% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	39% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	96% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1520 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	59 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	11 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	106 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	72 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

Heavy snow hit the Midwest on Feb. 20, 1898. Racine, Wis., received 30 inches of snow. Milwaukee had drifts as high as 15 feet.

SUN & MOON

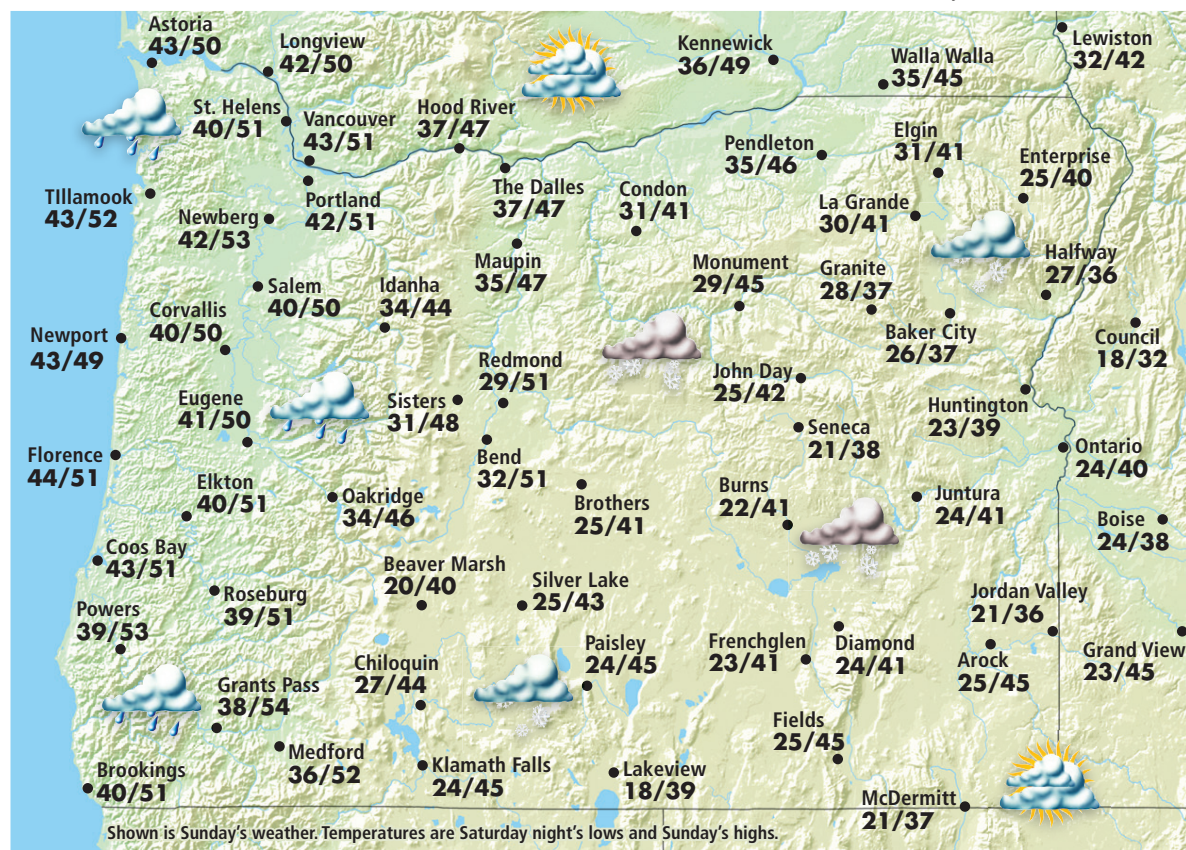
Sunrise	6:46 a.m.	6:44 a.m.
Sunset	5:27 p.m.	5:28 p.m.
Moonrise	11:01 a.m.	11:39 a.m.
Moonset	1:51 a.m.	2:53 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 27	Mar 5	Mar 13	Mar 21

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN.		MON.	
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	50/47/r	48/41/sh	Lewiston	42/39/c
Bend	51/34/r	57/29/c	Longview	50/48/r
Boise	38/29/sf	45/32/pc	Medford	41/32/r
Brookings	51/39/c	55/41/pc	Newport	52/34/c
Burns	41/25/c	47/29/c	Portland	49/46/r
Coos Bay	51/42/c	54/41/c	Redmond	50/47/r
Corvallis	50/45/r	54/36/c	Salem	50/46/r
Council	32/28/sn	39/29/c	Spokane	39/38/sf
Elgin	41/35/r	46/30/c	The Dalles	47/42/r
Eugene	50/46/r	56/38/c	Ukiah	40/33/sf
Hermiston	53/46/c	58/40/pc	Walla Walla	45/42/r
Hood River	47/45/r	52/39/sh	Lakeview	39/22/pc
Imnaha	41/33/sf	47/31/c		
John Day	42/25/c	49/27/c		
Joseph	39/26/sn	45/26/c		
Kennewick	49/44/c	58/35/pc		
Klamath Falls	45/25/pc	51/28/pc		
McDermitt	39/22/pc	44/27/pc		

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 A bit of snow	26 25	PHILLIPS LAKE Rain/snow shower	38 31
MT. EMILY REC. A little snow	34 29	BROWNLEE RES. Cloudy, flurries	38 30
EAGLE CAP WILD. A little snow	28 25	EMIGRANT ST. PARK A p.m. shower	38 34
WALLOWA LAKE A little a.m. snow	39 26	MCKAY RESERVOIR A morning shower	46 42
THIEF VALLEY RES. Cloudy, flurries	37 29	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Rain and snow	41 33