

# Roommate with benefits is attracted to man's friend

DEAR ABBY: I have this dilemma. I'm a woman in my 40s with a good job, and I'm told I am a good catch. About six months ago, I moved in with a man I will call Peter. It started as a roommate situation, but then became friends with benefits. We have both agreed we are not a couple.



**DEAR ABBY**

myself having a real relationship with him, but don't know how Peter will react. Should I accept the invitation? I mean, it's just one date. Also, should I mention it to Peter?

— F.W.B. IN THE SOUTH

DEAR F.W.B.: You and Peter have agreed that you are NOT a couple. Accept Reggie's offer and be upfront with Peter about it. The only thing that might change would be that Peter will have to find another friend with benefits because the sexual aspect of your relationship with him may be over.

DEAR ABBY: I have a

22-year-old daughter from my first marriage and a 9-year-old son with my husband of 12 years. My husband is 57, and I just turned 41. I would like to have another baby, mainly because I want my 9-year-old son to have someone to grow up with. We have no other family. It's just him and girl cousins, ages 9 and 5. Can you please advise me if my husband and I are OK or too old to have one more child?

— CONSIDERING IT IN THE WEST

DEAR CONSIDERING: I'm glad you wrote. This is something that should be discussed further with your husband to make sure you are on the same page, and also with your OB-GYN.

If your intention is that your children grow up together, this is something that should have happened years ago. As it stands, the 10-year age difference will mean your son will be grown and gone while your younger child is still at home.

A doctor with a specialty in genetics could be helpful as you gather information. It is important that you understand what precautions might be wise to take before making this decision.

DEAR ABBY: I care a lot about what friends, family — even the general public — do with their money. Specifically, I promote the benefits of owning a home, but I suspect my efforts to educate them may need a more loving

approach. I just don't want people I care about to throw their money away to their landlords. Do I need to be more loving and supportive vs. educating?

— COMMUNITY HELPER

DEAR HELPER: People usually have good reasons for renting instead of buying. If you keep repeating your advice and it's falling on deaf ears, it's fair to conclude your message isn't being appreciated. A saying widely attributed to Albert Einstein is, "Insanity is continuing to repeat an action over and over again but expecting different results." You can volunteer to serve as an adviser, but only if these individuals want to make a change and ask for your help.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

### 15th century bowl found at yard sale sells for \$722,000

HARTFORD, Conn. — An exceptionally rare 15th century porcelain bowl made in China that somehow turned up at a Connecticut yard sale and sold for just \$35 was auctioned off Wednesday for nearly \$722,000.

The small white bowl adorned with cobalt blue paintings of flowers and other designs — one of only seven such bowls known to exist in the world — was among a variety of Chinese works of art sold by Sotheby's as part of its Asia Week events. The names of the seller and buyer were not disclosed.

Sotheby's had estimated the value of the artifact at \$300,000 to \$500,000. The auction Wednesday, March 17, included 15 bids, starting at \$200,000 from someone online and ending at \$580,000 from another person bidding by phone. The official purchase price, which included various fees, was \$721,800.

An antiques enthusiast came across the Ming Dynasty-era piece and thought it could be something special when browsing a yard sale in the New Haven area last year, according to Sotheby's. The buyer later emailed information and photos to Sotheby's asking for an evaluation.

"Today's result for this exceptionally rare floral bowl, dating to the 15th century, epitomizes the incredible, once in a lifetime discovery stories that we dream about as specialists in the Chinese Art field," Angela McAteer, head of Sotheby's Chinese Works of Art Department, said in a statement.

The bowl dates back to the early 1400s during the reign of the Yongle Emperor, the third ruler of the Ming Dynasty, and was made for the Yongle court. The Yongle court was known to have ushered in a new style to the porcelain kilns in the city of Jingdezhen, and the bowl is a quintessential Yongle



Sotheby's via AP

This photo from March 2, 2021, shows a small porcelain bowl bought for \$35 at a Connecticut yard sale that turned out to be a rare, 15th century Chinese artifact worth between \$300,000 and \$500,000. The bowl was auctioned off for nearly \$722,000 at Sotheby's Auction of Important Chinese Art, in New York, on Wednesday, March 17.

product, according to Sotheby's.

The bowl was made in the shape of a lotus bud or chicken heart. Inside, it is decorated with a medallion at the bottom and a quatrefoil motif surrounded by flowers. The outside includes four blossoms of lotus, peony, chrysanthemum and pomegranate flower. There are also intricate patterns at the top of both the outside and inside.

McAteer said only six other such bowls are known to exist, and most of them are in museums. No others are in the United States. There are two at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan, two at museums in London and one in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran, according to Sotheby's.

How the bowl ended up at a Connecticut yard sale remains a mystery. McAteer said it's possible it was passed down through generations of the same family who did not know how unique it was.

### No cigar: Interstellar object is cookie-shaped planet shard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Our solar system's first known

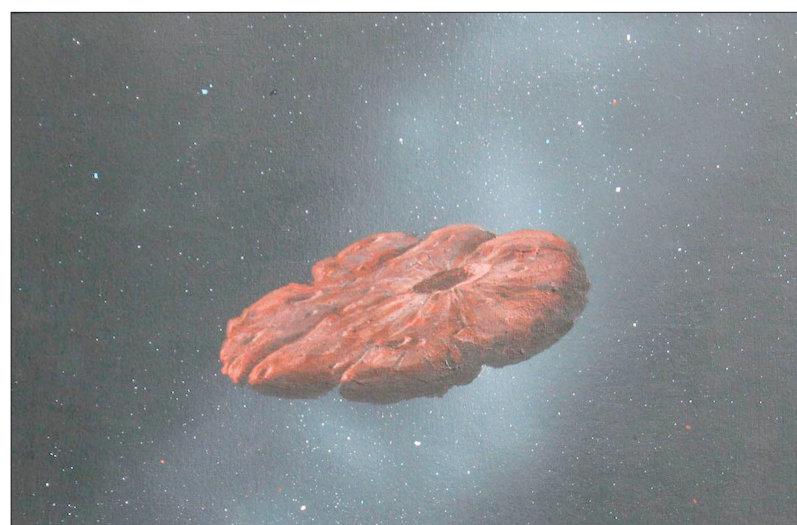
interstellar visitor is neither a comet nor asteroid as first suspected and looks nothing like a cigar. A new study says the mysterious object is likely a remnant of a Pluto-like world and shaped like a cookie.

Arizona State University astronomers reported this week that the strange 148-foot object that appears to be made of frozen nitrogen, just like the surface of Pluto and Neptune's largest moon Triton.

The study's authors, Alan Jackson and Steven Desch, think an impact knocked a chunk off an icy nitrogen-covered planet 500 million years ago and sent the piece tumbling out of its own star system, toward ours. The reddish remnant is believed to be a sliver of its original self, its outer layers evaporated by cosmic radiation and, more recently, the sun.

It's named Oumuamua, Hawaiian for scout, in honor of the observatory in Hawaii that discovered it in 2017.

Visible only as a pinpoint of light millions of miles away at its closest approach, it was determined to have originated beyond our solar system because



William Hartmann and Michael Belton via AP

This 2018 illustration shows a depiction of the Oumuamua interstellar object as a pancake-shaped disk. A study published in March 2021 says the mystery object is likely a remnant of a Pluto-like world and shaped like a cookie.

its speed and path suggested it wasn't orbiting the sun or anything else.

The only other object confirmed to have strayed from another star system into our own is the comet 21/Borsov, discovered in 2019.

But what is Oumuamua? It didn't fit into known categories — it looked like an asteroid but sped along like a comet. Unlike a comet, though, it didn't have a visible tail. Speculation flipped back and forth between comet and asteroid — and it was even suggested it could be an alien artifact.

Using its shininess, size and shape — and that it was propelled by escaping substances that didn't produce a visible tail — Jackson and Desch devised computer models that helped them determine Oumuamua was most likely a chunk of nitrogen ice being gradually eroded, the way a bar of soap thins with use.

Their two papers were published Tuesday, March 16, by the American Geophysical Union and also presented at the Lunar and Planetary Sciences Conference, typically held in Houston

but virtual this year.

Not all scientists buy the new explanation. Harvard University's Avi Loeb disputes the findings and stands by his premise the object appears to be more artificial than natural — in other words, something from an alien civilization, perhaps a light sail. His newly published book "Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth," addresses the subject.

When Oumuamua was at its closest approach to Earth, it appeared to have a width six times larger than its thickness. Those are the rough proportions of one wafer of an Oreo cookie, Desch noted.

By the time the object starts leaving our solar system around 2040, the width-to-thickness ratio will have dropped to 10-to-1, according to Desch.

"So maybe Oumuamua was consistent with a cookie when we saw it, but will soon be literally as flat as a pancake," Desch said in an email.

That's the way the cosmic cookie — this one anyway — crumbles.

— Associated Press

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# weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Mostly cloudy	An afternoon shower	A couple of showers	Clouds and sun; chilly	Cloudy
Baker City	28	50 32	49 29	51 27	56 33
La Grande	33	46 33	43 31	48 27	53 32
Enterprise	27	43 31	40 28	45 25	50 33

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	64°	62°	62°
Low Thursday	37°	38°	28°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.00	0.10
Month to date	0.13	0.06	2.1
Normal month to date	0.47	0.84	1.30
Year to date	1.08	5.09	12.03
Normal year to date	1.85	3.61	6.80

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	40%		
Afternoon wind	W at 6 to 12 mph		
Hours of sunshine	2.1		
Evapotranspiration	0.07		
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)			
Phillips Reservoir	12% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	56% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	54% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	68% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	47% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	101% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	5590 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	117 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	35 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	748 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	363 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	281 cfs		

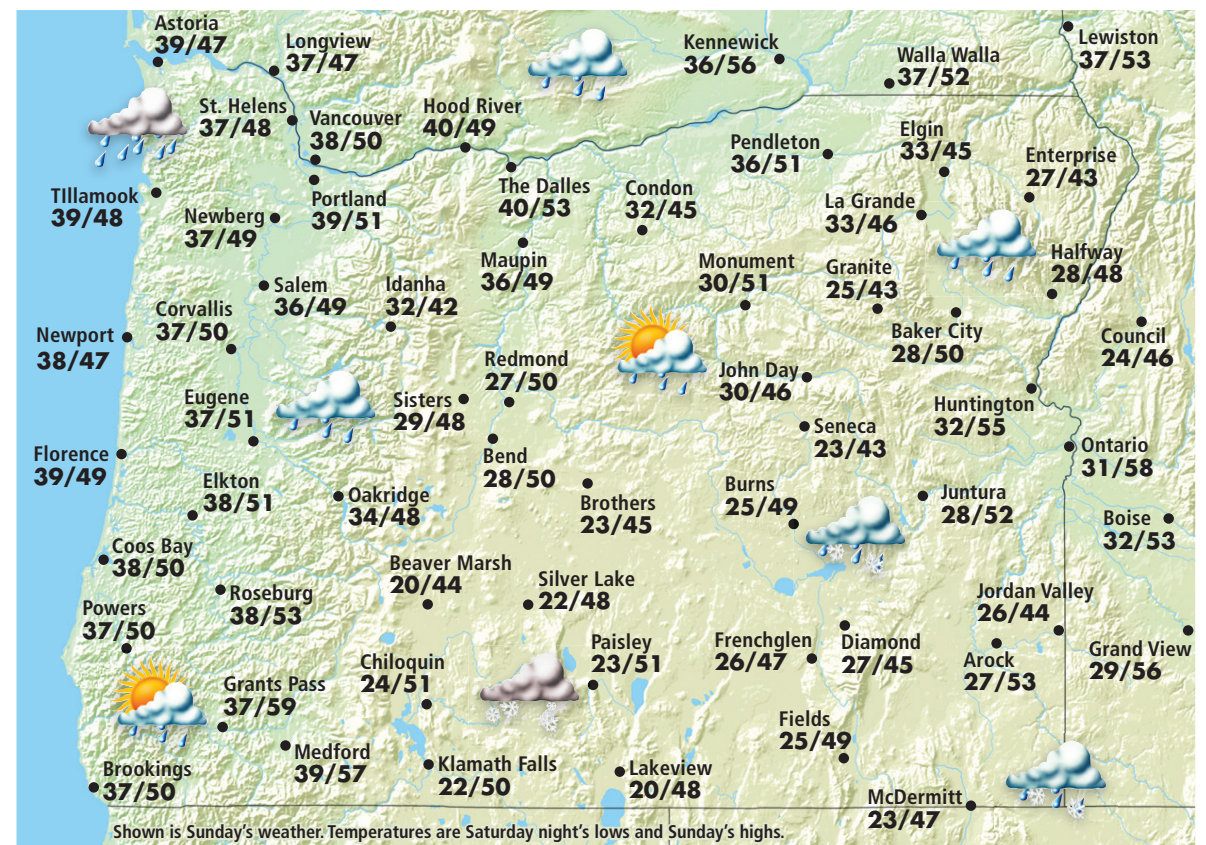
THURSDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 91°	Titusville, Fla.		
Low: -2°	Gould, Colo.		
Wettest: 3.21"	Beaufort, S.C.		
OREGON			
High: 74°	Ontario		
Low: 20°	Odell Lake		
Wettest: 0.46"	Florence		

**WEATHER HISTORY**  
On March 20, 1948, Juneau, Alaska, received almost 33 inches of snow. This was the heaviest snow ever to fall in Alaska's capital.

SUN & MOON			
Sunrise	6:55 a.m.	SAT.	SUN.
Sunset	7:05 p.m.		
Moonrise	10:33 a.m.		
Moonset	1:41 a.m.		
MOON PHASES			
First	Full	Last	New
Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES					
City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	47/41/r	49/38/sh	Lewiston	53/39/c	52/34/sh
Bend	50/35/pc	47/27/sn	Longview	47/37/r	51/33/sh
Boise	53/36/s	51/32/pc	Meacham	45/32/sh	42/30/sh
Brookings	50/41/pc	51/40/pc	Medford	57/40/pc	57/38/pc
Burns	49/30/pc	46/26/sn	Newport	47/40/r	48/37/sh
Coos Bay	50/41/c	50/37/pc	Olympia	46/34/r	52/31/sh
Corvallis	50/41/r	52/36/sh	Ontario	58/37/pc	57/32/pc
Council	46/25/pc	43/21/pc	Pasco	57/41/pc	60/30/pc
Elgin	45/34/c	43/28/sh	Pendleton	51/40/c	51/34/sh
Eugene	51/42/c	53/38/sh	Portland	51/42/r	57/39/sh
Hermiston	55/41/c	57/33/pc	Powers	50/41/c	52/41/pc
Hood River	49/40/r	51/35/pc	Redmond	50/33/pc	49/28/sn
Imnaha	49/35/pc	45/28/sh	Roseburg	53/42/c	55/38/pc
John Day	46/33/pc	43/31/sh	Salem	49/40/r	52/37/sh
Joseph	41/30/pc	39/26/sn	Spokane	46/35/c	48/28/pc
Kennewick	56/42/pc	60/30/pc	The Dalles	53/40/c	55/36/pc
Klamath Falls	50/29/s	44/24/sn	Ukiah	44/32/c	41/26/sn
Lakeview	48/30/s	44/25/sn	Walla Walla	52/40/c	52/35/sh

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY					
<b>ANTHONY LAKES</b>	A little p.m. snow	<b>25 17</b>	<b>PHILLIPS LAKE</b>	Clouds and sun	<b>46 30</b>
<b>MT. EMILY REC.</b>	A little p.m. snow	<b>33 27</b>	<b>BROWNLEE RES.</b>	Mostly cloudy	<b>49 30</b>
<b>EAGLE CAP WLD.</b>	Partly sunny	<b>30 18</b>	<b>EMIGRANT ST. PARK</b>	Afternoon flurries	<b>41 30</b>
<b>WALLOWA LAKE</b>	Sun and clouds	<b>41 30</b>	<b>MCKAY RESERVOIR</b>	Mostly cloudy	<b>51 38</b>
<b>THIEF VALLEY RES.</b>	Partly sunny	<b>50 32</b>	<b>RED BRIDGE ST. PARK</b>	A p.m. shower	<b>46 33</b>

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