

Veteran feels she's being used by friend

DEAR ABBY: While shopping with a friend recently, I was put in an awkward situation in regard to a store discount.



DEAR ABBY

Having served in the military, I qualify for a discount at that particular store. She was aware of that discount, and while she was at the checkout lane, she yelled at me, "Hey, you! What's your phone number for your military discount?"

We are both retired and living on one income, although I am married and live on my husband's pension. She's retired from a job in the medical field, owns her home and shows up conveniently at friends' homes for coffee and food.

I was so dumbfounded at her request for the number that I gave it to her. I'm uncomfortable going shopping with her now. I haven't addressed it with her, and I have tried to avoid any shopping trips with her since that incident. It feels like she's stealing my valor since my husband and I served in the military. Am I too easily offended?

— RETIRED IN ALASKA

DEAR RETIRED: I'm glad you mentioned valor in your letter because it's time for you to summon up some more. Unless you want this person to continue taking advantage of you, set her straight. She is not entitled to the discount, and you must learn to refuse if and when she puts you in that position again.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband always had a difficult relationship with his family. I never understood and would force him to call them on holidays, birthdays and special occasions. We divorced after he had an affair. It was ugly at the start, but we are civil now.

Following the divorce, COVID and some bad decisions on his part, he has lost everything. He's now homeless and lives in his car or at motels. The other day he came to me desperate. I took him out of the cold for a while, fed him and dropped him off at a friend's. I then reached out to his family to tell them about how bad he is doing. I didn't even get to tell them before they cut me off saying they have washed their hands of him because of his bad decisions.

My ex isn't perfect, but although he never did anything to his family like he did to me, they are punishing him for that. Should I reach out to them again and tell them he needs them now more than ever, or should I just let it go like he told me to years ago?

— EX WITH A HEART

DEAR EX: If you think it will soften their hearts, contact them once more and tell them that you have forgiven him for the hurt he caused you and suggest they stop punishing him for it. However, it's entirely possible that some of your ex's other bad decisions may have affected his relatives. If that's the case, let the matter drop. Remember, there's a difference between being softhearted and softheaded, and he must solve his own problems without you being dragged back in.

Finally, the brothers hit a triple

HONOLULU — The year was 2005. A 14-year-old Luke took a break from watching his younger brother's baseball game in the Rogue Valley. Though his brother, Jake, was quite talented at the game, Luke didn't enjoy watching sports. Not really. Playing them was great, but young Luke had suffered through the first game of the doubleheader, and let's face it: the level of competition in middle school just isn't that high.

Bored out of his mind and unwilling to slowly bake in the early summer sun, he went for a walk. At first, passers-by would see a gangly boy circling the edges of the small sports park, counting ground squirrels until he saw what appeared to be a pond in the distance. Grasshoppers were everywhere, and as he walked up to the bank, they decided to commit mass suicide, fleeing his gargantuan presence and dropping into the water below where dozens of staging bluegills devoured them.

Having grown up on trout, Luke couldn't remember catching a bluegill. He had no fishing tackle, but that didn't stop him from running through the fields like a madman to chase grasshoppers into the waiting mouths of shoreline bluegills.

The following week, he came prepared with a rod and caught dozens of fish on the very same suicidal grasshoppers while Jake played baseball nearby. A single fisherman, playing the game.

2008

Fast-forward a couple years. Luke was now a 17-year-old high school graduate, just a few weeks post-ceremony. This time, his younger brother, Gabe, had a baseball tournament in Pendleton. The stakes for this tournament were a trip to the Little League World Series, and though it was more competitive than the games years before, it was still youth baseball.

Luke watched a few games, but inevitably found the days-long tournament a little stale and decided to go for a walk, this time finding his way to a slow-moving oxbow in the Umatilla River where he caught northern pikeminnows left and right.

Though Gabe joined him in the eve-



CAUGHT OVGARD LUKE OVGARD

"If Gabe's wife, Rylee, decides to join them on a ballpark fishing trip some day, it might just be a home run, but a triple was what Luke had always wanted and finally got."

nings at McKay Reservoir, it was still a baseball trip, and Luke fished more by himself or with Jake more often than not, a double.

2021

More than 15 years from the very first baseball park pond, Luke finally had a chance to fish with both brothers while the game was underway. Not in Oregon, this time, but while on a mini vacation for a friend's wedding in Hawaii.

On the University of Hawaii campus, as baseball and spring football and a track meet harmonized to form an athletic din of background noise, the Ovgard brothers caught fish after fish in the small drainage pond on campus.

Bluegills and pikeminnows weren't present, but there was no shortage of invasive species: red devil cichlids, jaguar guapote, banded jewel cichlids and even one smallmouth bass obliged the Ovgard bros that day, creating the first triple he'd ever had.

If Gabe's wife, Rylee, decides to join them on a ballpark fishing trip some day, it might just be a home run, but a triple was what Luke had always wanted and finally got.



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo

The first time the author fished a baseball park pond was during his brother Jake's (pictured) game more than 15 years ago. Now, the author has come full-circle and fished with Jake at a baseball pond. They caught red devil cichlids in the pond at the University of Hawaii.



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo

The author fished the Umatilla River during his brother Gabe's (pictured) Little League World Series qualifying tournament in Pendleton. A dozen years later, they fished a pond behind a baseball field together and caught several red devil cichlids like this.

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AIR GUNS

Continued from Page 1B

The .25-caliber Gauntlet has an MSRP of \$329.99 and has worked great for me. The Marauder has an MSRP of \$539.99. But if you want to burn money you can blow up to nearly \$3,000. I just can't afford that, plus, I get super groups out of the above two PCP's so I don't know what more those expensive ones could bring to the party?

SCOPES

I didn't touch on scopes in the other three articles. In the old



Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

days everyone told you that you had to buy air gun-compatible scopes, that due to the unique recoil of an air gun that they would break a regular scope. I think this applies to BB's but not the other two models. But still, to be safe check before you buy a scope for your air gun. A lot of the cheaper air guns

come with cheap scopes. So you may want to upgrade your air gun scope. Since we'll be shooting small game with a small kill zone, you'll want at the very least a 3-9 but a 4-16 is better. I've found Riton Optics scopes to be economical and yet they have a crisp view.

PELLETS

As covered in the last air gun article, if you want tight groups you have to use good pellets. JSB is the best. If you're plinking and flinging out hundreds of pellets per day, I've had good luck with Crosman and Sig Sauer pellets.

SAFETY

As my daughter would say, "Dad, you've never been known as Captain Safety," but despite the voices of the haters, I want to throw out one word of caution. I don't want to make you paranoid but I think that it would be prudent to take a jug of water and periodically wash your hands since you'll be handling lead pellets. And for sure wash before you eat or suck your thumb if you're so inclined to thumb sucking. I don't have any data to support this paragraph but I think that it only stands to reason to do this.

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weather

Weather forecast table with columns for TONIGHT, SUN, MON, TUE, WED and rows for Baker City, La Grande, Enterprise.

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 table with columns for Baker City, La Grande, Elgin and rows for TEMPERATURES and PRECIPITATION.

AGRICULTURAL INFO table with columns for HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY and rows for various metrics like humidity and wind.

RESERVOIR STORAGE table with columns for various reservoirs and rows for capacity percentages.

STREAM FLOWS table with columns for various rivers and rows for flow rates.

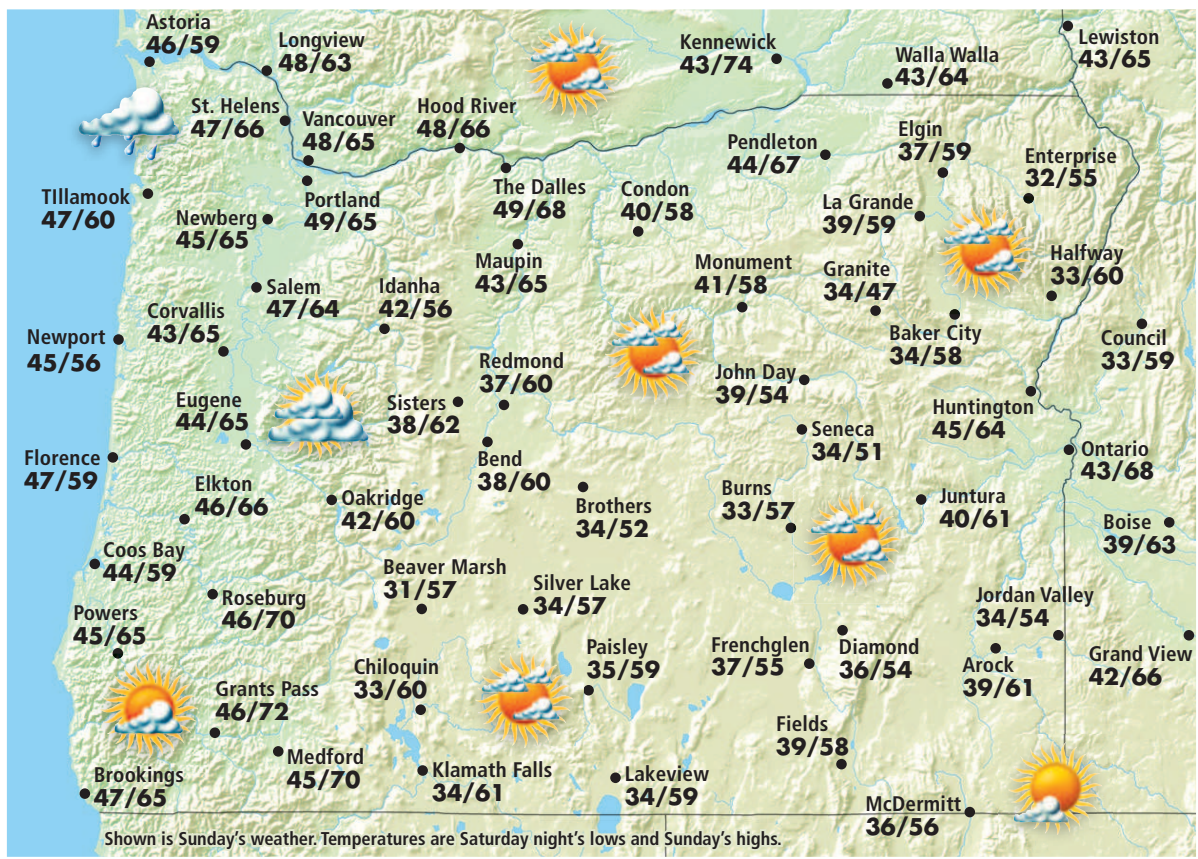
THURSDAY EXTREMES table with columns for NATION and OREGON and rows for High, Low, and Wettest.

WEATHER HISTORY table with columns for SAT. and SUN. and rows for Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset.

SUN & MOON table with columns for SAT. and SUN. and rows for New, First, Full, Last moon phases.

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES table with columns for SUN. and MON. and rows for various cities like Astoria, Bend, Boise, etc.

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY table with columns for ANTHONY LAKES, MT. EMILY REC., EAGLE CAP WILD., WALLOWA LAKE, THIEF VALLEY RES. and rows for weather forecasts.