

Long-married man remains in the closet despite gay relationships

DEAR ABBY: I have been married more than 25 years and have kids. I'm also gay. I always have been, but when I was a teenager, it wasn't acceptable and I always believed I would just outgrow it, or learn to live with it. Then came the computer era and the internet — things I never dreamed of while growing up. They changed my life, yet I'm still closeted. I have had two gay relationships. Both lasted less than a year. I feel like my whole life has been a lie, and I pretty much screwed up my wife because of it. I did provide her with all the creature



DEAR ABBY

comforts financially, and gave her two beautiful kids. I just don't know if it's worth coming out at this point in my life. I'm also reluctant because I don't have a guy in my life right now, although I am looking. It's just so difficult. I'm torn about how to live the remainder of my life. Please help.

— CLOSETED

DEAR CLOSETED: Because you are looking for a partner, it looks like you really don't plan on sticking around once you find one. Tell your wife the truth so she can decide how she would like

to spend the rest of HER life. She may need help from a licensed therapist to deal with the ramifications of your disclosure, so be prepared because it may be a shock when she learns the person she has spent the last quarter of a century with is not exactly who she thought he was. **DEAR ABBY:** I was adopted and recently came across my biological family. It's huge. I suffer from severe depression and now know that most of my bio family does, too. During the past year, my husband and I decided to tackle it head-on with medication, and there has been a noticeable change in me. My husband is very

supportive, and we are close. Problem is, I want to meet my out-of-state bio brother alone. He's the only full sibling I have, and our connection is uncanny. My husband is a hyper extrovert, and I don't want his charming antics to distract from this moment (although usually I love it). He, however, says he can't agree. He's afraid something with the new family will set off a depressive episode, and I'll be too far away for him to get to me. That's understandable. But what do I do? I still feel the same. Is he right or am I? — CONNECTING

depressive episodes have been, my instinctive reaction is to advise you to listen to your husband. Surely he wouldn't have to be with you every minute and could stay at a nearby hotel or motel while you are seeing your sibling. That said, if there is any chance that an episode could result in you becoming self-destructive, it is important to discuss this visit with the therapist who prescribes your medications before making any plans to go. Do tell your husband that if he accompanies you, you would like him to tone down his need for attention so he won't distract from your experience or your brother's.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Last wild macaw in Rio is lonely and looking for love

RIO DE JANEIRO — Some have claimed she's indulging a forbidden romance. More likely, loneliness compels her to seek company at Rio de Janeiro's zoo.

Either way, a blue-and-yellow macaw that zookeepers named Juliet is believed to be the only wild bird of its kind left in the Brazilian city where the birds once flew far and wide.

Almost every morning for the last two decades, Juliet has appeared. She swoops onto the zoo enclosure where macaws are kept and, through its fence, engages in grooming behavior that looks like conjugal canoodling. Sometimes she just sits, relishing the presence of others. She is quieter than her squawking chums.

Blue-and-yellow macaws live to be about 35 years old and Juliet should have found a lifelong mate years ago, according to Neiva Guedes, president of the Hyacinth Macaw Institute, an environmental group.

"They're social birds, and that means they don't like to live alone, whether in nature or captivity. They need company," said Guedes, who also coordinates a project that researches macaws in urban settings. Juliet "very probably feels lonely, and for that reason goes to the enclosure to communicate and interact."

Aside from Juliet, the last sighting of a blue-and-yellow macaw flying free in Rio was in 1818 by an Austrian naturalist, according



Bruna Prado/Associated Press

A blue-and-yellow macaw that zookeepers named Juliet flies outside the enclosure where macaws are kept at BioParque, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Juliet is believed to be the only wild specimen left in the Brazilian city where the birds once flew far and wide.

to Marcelo Rheingantz, a biologist at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and there are no other types of macaws in the city. The lovebirds featured in the 2011 film "Rio" are Spix's macaws, which are native to a different region of Brazil and possibly extinct in the wild.

Being boisterous with brilliant plumage helps macaws find each other in dense forest, but also makes them easier targets for hunters and animal traffickers. They're often seen in other Brazilian states and across the Amazon, and it is suspected Juliet escaped from captivity.

Biologists at BioParque aren't sure if Juliet's nuzzling is limited to one caged Romeo, or a few of them. They're not even certain Juliet is female; macaw gender is near impossible to determine by sight, and

requires either genetic testing of feathers or blood, or examination of the gonads.

Either would be interference merely to satisfy human curiosity with no scientific end, biologist Angelita Capobianco said inside the enclosure. Nor would they consider confining Juliet, who often soars overhead and appears well-nourished.

"We don't want to project human feelings. I look at the animal, and see an animal at ease," Capobianco said, noting Juliet has never exhibited behavior to indicate disturbance, such as pecking at the fence. "Who am I to decide it should only stay here? I won't. It comes and goes, and its feathers are beautiful."

Last year, BioParque gave its macaws more space: a 10,700-square-foot

aviary where they fly beside green parrots and golden parakeets. It's a massive upgrade from prior enclosures that were roughly 100 square feet. BioParque reopened to the public in March, after almost 17 months of renovations.

BioParque aims to feature species associated with research programs at universities and institutes. One such initiative is Refauna, which reintroduces species into protected areas with an eye on rebuilding ecosystems, and is participating with BioParque to start breeding blue-and-yellow macaws.

The plan is for parents to raise some 20 chicks that will receive training on forest food sources, the peril of predators and avoidance of power lines. Then the youngsters will be released into Rio's immense Tijuca Forest National

Park, where Juliet has been sighted and is thought to sleep each night.

"Their role could be important in terms of ecosystem and reforestation. It's a big animal with big beak that can crack the biggest seeds, and not all birds can," said Rheingantz, the university biologist, who is also Refauna's technical coordinator. "The idea is for it to start dispersing forest seeds, complementing forest animals that can't."

After some pandemic-induced delays, the project has slowly restarted and Rheingantz expects to release blue-and-yellow macaws into Tijuca park toward the end of 2022.

After two decades of relative solitude, Juliet will then have the chance to fly with friends. Neves said Juliet could teach them how to navigate the forest, or even find a love of her own.

Dracula's castle an ideal setting for COVID-19 jabs

BUCHAREST — At Dracula's castle in picturesque Transylvania, Romanian doctors are offering a jab in the arm rather than a stake through the heart.

A COVID-19 vaccination center has been set up on the periphery of Romania's Bran Castle, which is purported to be the inspiration behind Dracula's home in Bram Stoker's 19th-century gothic novel "Dracula."

Every weekend through May "vaccination marathons" will be held just outside the storied 14th-century hilltop castle, where no appointment is needed, in an attempt to encourage people to protect themselves against COVID-19.

"We wanted to show people a different way to get the (vaccine) needle," Alexandru Priscu, the marketing manager at Bran Castle, told The Associated Press.

Those brave enough to get a Pfizer vaccine shot receive a "vaccination diploma," which is illustrated with a fanged medical worker brandishing a syringe.

"Besides the diploma, people benefit with free entry to the (castle's) torture rooms, which have 52 medieval torture instruments," Priscu noted.

Since the light-hearted campaign was launched over the weekend — when nearly 400 people were vaccinated — Priscu said he has received scores of requests from foreigners wishing to get vaccinated in the spooky setting. Bad news for them: Only residents of Romania can officially receive a jab.

The campaign runs alongside a series of government initiatives as it pushes to speed up the inoculation campaign for the European Union nation of more than 19 million people. The government is hoping to vaccinate 5 million people by June 1 to herald in a "return to normality."

On Saturday, May 8, all vaccination centers in the country became appointment-free after 2 p.m., and round-the-clock "vaccination marathons" events have been launched in several cities throughout Romania. Since the pandemic started, Romania has recorded more than 1 million COVID-19 infections and 29,034 people have died.

— Associated Press

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weather

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TONIGHT Cloudy | FRI Mostly cloudy | SAT Sunny and warm | SUN Sunny and very warm | MON Mostly sunny; very warm |
| Baker City 43 Comfort Index™ 10 | 73 42 10 | 76 40 10 | 82 43 8 | 84 41 6 |
| La Grande 51 Comfort Index™ 10 | 74 47 10 | 75 45 10 | 83 48 6 | 86 45 4 |
| Enterprise 46 Comfort Index™ 9 | 70 45 10 | 70 43 10 | 80 47 8 | 80 45 6 |

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 | 68° | 70° | 76° |
| Low Tuesday | 27° | 31° | 30° |
| PRECIPITATION (inches) | | | |
| Tuesday | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| Month to date | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.05 |
| Normal month to date | 0.47 | 0.70 | 0.78 |
| Year to date | 1.69 | 5.86 | 13.76 |
| Normal year to date | 3.52 | 6.51 | 10.47 |

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 101° Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 16° Dakota Hill, Colo.
Wettest: 6.08" Acadiana, La.

OREGON

High: 84° Medford
Low: 27° Meacham
Wettest: none

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Lowest relative humidity | 35% |
| Afternoon wind | N at 7 to 14 mph |
| Hours of sunshine | 10.9 |
| Evapotranspiration | 0.18 |

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Phillips Reservoir | 20% of capacity |
| Unity Reservoir | 99% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir | 54% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir | 98% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake | 62% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 99% of capacity |

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

| | |
|--|----------|
| Grande Ronde at Troy | 4670 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 77 cfs |
| Burnt River near Unity | 107 cfs |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon | 343 cfs |
| Minam River at Minam | 964 cfs |
| Powder River near Richland | 45 cfs |

SUN & MOON

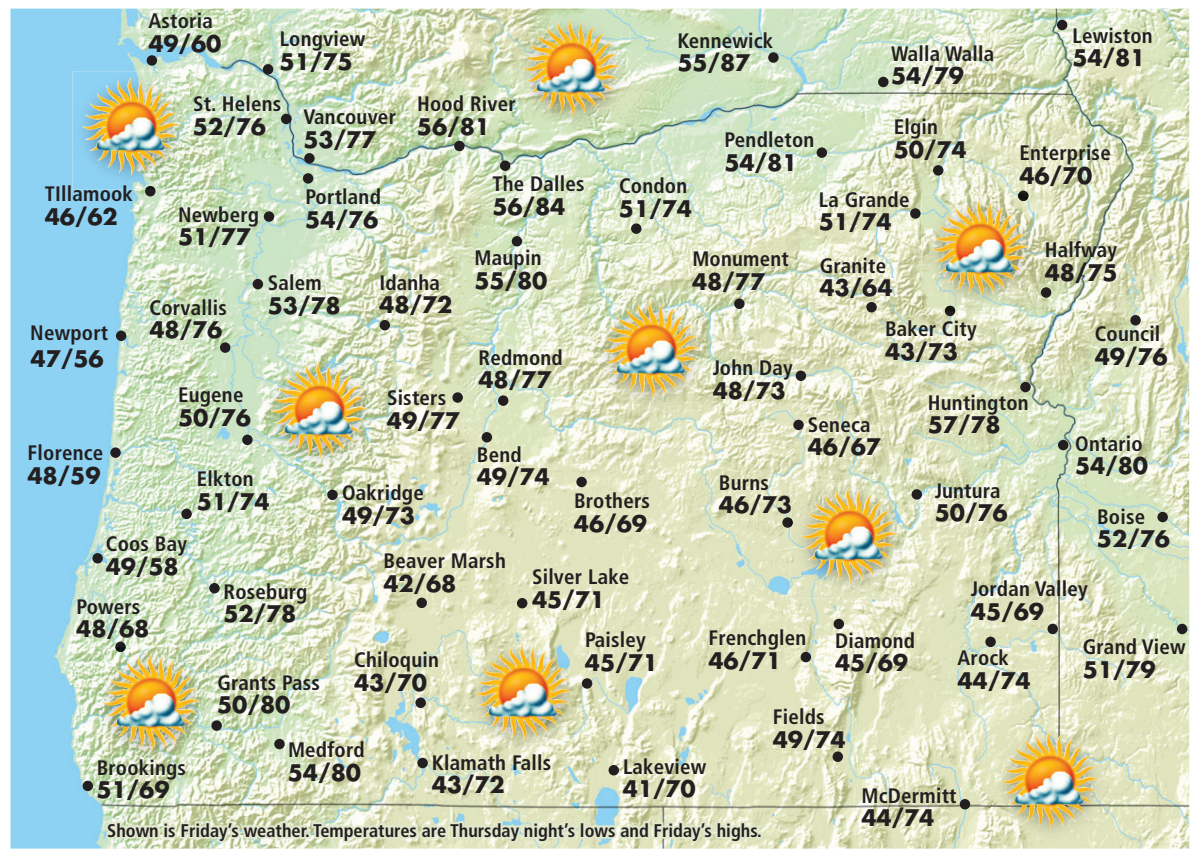
| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| THU. | FRI. |
| Sunrise | 5:25 a.m. |
| Sunset | 8:13 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 6:31 a.m. |
| Moonset | 10:26 p.m. |

MOON PHASES

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| First | Full | Last | New |
| | | | |
| May 19 | May 26 | Jun 2 | Jun 10 |

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

| City | FRI. | | SAT. | | City | FRI. | | SAT. | |
|---------------|----------|---------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | Hi/Lo/W | |
| Astoria | 60/48/c | 61/49/c | Lewiston | 81/51/c | 83/52/s | | | | |
| Bend | 74/42/pc | 75/43/s | Longview | 75/45/pc | 77/45/pc | | | | |
| Boise | 76/49/c | 79/51/s | Meacham | 74/46/c | 75/42/s | | | | |
| Brookings | 69/50/pc | 70/51/s | Medford | 80/48/pc | 83/48/s | | | | |
| Burns | 73/41/pc | 77/41/s | Newport | 56/45/pc | 57/45/pc | | | | |
| Coos Bay | 58/47/pc | 61/45/s | Olympia | 73/41/pc | 75/43/pc | | | | |
| Corvallis | 76/42/pc | 77/45/s | Ontario | 80/57/c | 84/56/s | | | | |
| Council | 76/45/c | 78/45/s | Pasco | 86/48/pc | 88/48/s | | | | |
| Elgin | 74/45/c | 75/43/s | Pendleton | 81/52/pc | 82/51/s | | | | |
| Eugene | 76/44/pc | 76/45/s | Portland | 76/50/pc | 78/50/pc | | | | |
| Hermiston | 87/52/pc | 88/51/s | Powers | 68/45/pc | 70/47/s | | | | |
| Hood River | 81/52/pc | 82/52/s | Redmond | 77/40/pc | 79/47/s | | | | |
| Imnaha | 74/46/c | 76/44/s | Roseburg | 78/45/pc | 79/47/s | | | | |
| John Day | 73/45/c | 74/43/s | Salem | 78/48/pc | 79/47/s | | | | |
| Joseph | 69/45/c | 68/44/s | Spokane | 77/47/pc | 80/49/s | | | | |
| Kennewick | 87/51/pc | 89/50/s | The Dalles | 84/53/s | 85/53/s | | | | |
| Klamath Falls | 72/42/t | 76/39/s | Ukiah | 73/42/c | 73/43/s | | | | |
| Lakeview | 70/40/t | 74/39/s | Walla Walla | 79/53/c | 81/55/s | | | | |

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 | 45 34 | | PHILLIPS LAKE Mostly cloudy | 66 42 | |
| MT. EMILY REC. Mostly cloudy | 60 45 | | BROWNLEE RES. Mostly cloudy | 80 46 | |
| EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly cloudy | 52 34 | | EMIGRANT ST. PARK Mostly cloudy | 69 40 | |
| WALLOWA LAKE Mostly cloudy | 69 45 | | MCKAY RESERVOIR Turning cloudy | 80 50 | |
| THIEF VALLEY RES. Breezy in the p.m. | 73 42 | | RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly cloudy | 74 47 | |