

Mixed signals frustrate friend

DEAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. There's a girl I have liked for a little over a month. We are like best friends. When I told her I was attracted to her, she basically friend-zoned me, which hurt. Then she told a mutual friend she was considering being "friends with benefits" with me, and I got excited. Well, she changed her mind again because she was afraid it would be awkward. I still have a crush on her, but I value our friendship. We spend so much time together, and things are easy but also challenging because I just want to grab her and kiss her. We snuggle all the time, and she gives me hugs every day (we live in the same dormitory). I want to make out with her. These mixed signals are killing me. What do I do?



DEAR ABBY

— DAZED & CONFUSED IN FLORIDA

DEAR DAZED: You're right. This young woman is giving you mixed signals. That's why you should put her firmly in YOUR friend zone. Stop the hugging and snuggling and move on, so you can find someone who reciprocates your feelings. (Absence has been known to make the heart grow fonder.) Perhaps when she realizes that you are capable of moving on, her feelings for you will change. However, if they don't, you will have lost nothing but more heartache.

— WONDERING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR WONDERING: What you have in mind is practical. If you have a relationship with these relatives, why not bring some of these questions up in normal conversation? (I assume you know where they were born.) To ask when people graduated from high school or college isn't intrusive. What year someone was married isn't classified information either. If you simply start talking, you may find out much of the information you are after.

P.S. If your relatives are willing to make the effort to write down their own stories, it could be compiled into a precious family history.

DEAR ABBY: Our family just got back from a perfect vacation, which included, in addition to my husband and me, my three adult sons, their wives, two grandchildren and my mom. My husband and I paid to rent a house, and we all chipped in for food.

When we returned, my sister called and said she was jealous, and she wants to be included next time. I love my sister, but that would very much change the dynamics of our vacation. Is it selfish to not want to include her? Is there anything I can say or do to ease the hurt? Due to COVID, we are no longer hosting holidays or other celebrations as we normally do.

— BIG FAMILY UP NORTH

DEAR BIG FAMILY: Your sister has a right to her feelings. However, that does not obligate you to change your family vacation plans to suit her. Because you appear to have trouble saying no, tell her you will think about it, which is true and doesn't obligate you.

MORELS

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The magic formula for them popping out is for the soil to be moist and have a warm night or two. I'm sure if you did a scientific study, you'd discover that their growth is triggered at a certain soil temperature. I find them up where I bear hunt around May 10 at 5,200 feet elevation. Of course I'm up there baiting from April 15 to June so I keep checking until the season hits. It seems they jump out overnight. I've always threatened — and maybe I'll do it this year — to find a small one and put a marker by it. Then come back the next day and see if it's grown two to three inches.



Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

You want to be checking for them early and not be on the tail end of the season. Nothing is more disheartening than to find a good mess and they're on the downhill side and deteriorated and you can't eat them. So, it's better to be early and barely find any than to be late and only find rotten ones.

So where do you find them? Ha, that's the million-dollar question. I've hunted them for decades but still don't have it all figured out. Everyone will tell you to look by old rotting logs. Well, there are a million old rotting logs in the forest and the majority of them don't have mushrooms. Some people say to look under tamaracks. I seem to find them randomly. But there are some likely spots.

They're not in a bog hole but I have a good spot that is a little bit of a hole which caused it to be moist. Along old logging roads. Especially on the sidebank above the trail. Last year's

Stump holes, which hold moisture, are likely spots to find morel mushrooms, especially in areas recently burned.

logging operations where the ground is tore up. Check in old caterpillar tracks (bulldozers, not the caterpillar bug. Their tracks are too small!).

Over the years as you find them go back to those spots. Not that it's a hotspot every year but many times they are. When you find one on a hillside look up and downhill. Spores wash downhill and many times you'll find more.

But now and then I find them in weird spots. Years ago I found a bunch on a grassy hillside. I've looked there every year since and never found any more there.

But the absolute most magical spot is in last year's forest fire areas. But the second year the burn has lost its touch. You can go to the Forest Service and get maps of old burn areas

or pay attention to fires this summer and go back next spring.

I'm not sure if the fires need to reach a certain temperature or what but a couple of years ago, I was up bear hunting and found where a random fire had run through the forest. It was a spotty little fire and I thought, great! Nobody knows about this spot. But I didn't find one mushroom in the burn. Weird.

Some years, though, you'll find clumps big as a cow pie. I remember at one fire years ago two of us couples picked two 5-gallon buckets each in no time at all and had to step over a million on the way out. It about killed me passing clumps of 8-12 nice healthy morels.

Ugh, we are out of room. I'll try to do a mushroom cooking article soon.

FISHING REPORT

OVERVIEW

Trout stocking is underway at several area lakes and ponds. In addition, many of these locations will have hold-over trout from last year's stocking. These fish have been in the water long enough to have put on some size, and to key in on natural food sources. Selecting flies or lures that mimic these food sources can be effective.

Bass and panfish anglers should start keeping an eye on water temperatures. Once they reach 50 degrees, you can expect these fish to become more active. Look for them to start moving into the shallows in anticipation of spawning.

MALHEUR RESERVOIR

Fishing is great for rainbow trout from 10 to 20+ inches. This reservoir was recently stocked with tagged trophy trout, some are marked with reward tags. If you catch a tagged trout please report it here: MyODFW.com/tagteam.

OWYHEE RESERVOIR

Fishing has been great for black crappie in the upper reservoir near Leslie Gulch. No reports on bass fish-

ing but with warmer weather bass are likely biting well now.

THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR

Trotting lures or flies will do a great job catching fish in this reservoir. Bait fishing with PowerBait or worms is also a proven method for putting fish on a stringer. This reservoir might be stocked again in May if there is enough water to keep stocking.

PILCHER CREEK RESERVOIR

The ice is gone and spring fishing will begin heating up here in the coming weeks. Reports from ice fishing suggest good holdover of healthy 10- to 15-inch fish from last year's stockings.

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS

The early trout stocking for Marr Pond has been canceled through mid-May to accommodate improvements to accessibility. Other ponds in the area will begin to receive their first batch of stocked fish in the next few weeks. Forest ponds continue to be inaccessible because of snow.

WALLOWA LAKE

Wallowa Lake is open, and anglers are starting to catch a few early

kokanee. As spring progresses, fishing for trout that held over from the previous year's stocking can pick up. Catching these fish may take some time, but they are often much larger. Fish natural baits as stocked fish have typically learned to eat natural food by this time.

Spring is a good time to fish for lake trout as they're active and can sometimes be found in the shallow areas. Methods typically involve good electronics, downriggers, and sometimes jigging.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER

The flows on the Grande Ronde have jumped with the beginning of snowmelt. This will make fishing difficult but some trout may be found.

IMNAHA RIVER

High flows during the spring will make fishing difficult, though some trout can be found when river conditions allow. Look for conditions to improve toward the end of June and early July. Anglers should be aware that some construction/utility work is occurring on the lower Imnaha, and trucks will be on the road hauling equipment and materials.

Source: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

weather

Table with weather forecasts for Tonight, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed for Baker City, La Grande, and Enterprise.

ALMANAC section with temperatures, precipitation, and reservoir storage data.

AGRICULTURAL INFO section with hay information and evapotranspiration data.

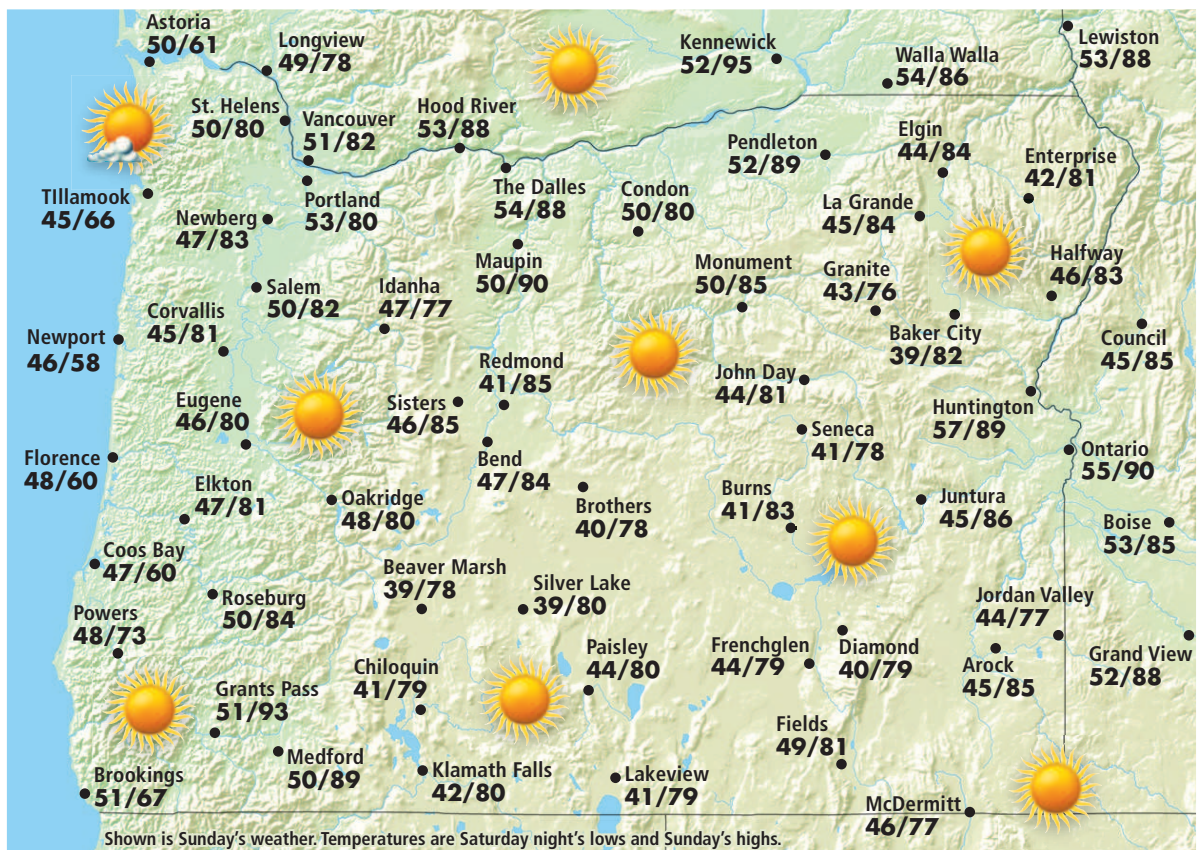
RESERVOIR STORAGE section showing capacity levels for various reservoirs.

STREAM FLOWS section showing flow levels for various rivers.

THURSDAY EXTREMES section with national and Oregon weather extremes.

WEATHER HISTORY, SUN & MOON, and MOON PHASES section with dates and moon phases.

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

Table with regional city weather forecasts for various locations.

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

Table with recreation forecasts for various lakes and reservoirs.