

Friend deflects unwanted questions by lying



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I went to lunch with "Anita," who proceeded to question me about how I know my friend "Gail." It seems like an innocent question, but Gail and I met in Alcoholics Anonymous. I didn't tell Anita we met in AA because it would've destroyed Gail's anonymity, so I said we met through mutual friends.

I didn't mind one question, but Anita kept probing about "mutual friends." I wound up fib-

bing and saying, "folks at my church." It managed to change the direction of the conversation, but I wish people wouldn't pry like that. This also happens when I'm at a party and someone asks me why I'm not drinking. It's easy to respond to one question with a general answer, but a lot of times I encounter folks who keep pushing.

I would like to encourage your readers to be sensitive to these kinds of situations and to allow people their privacy. Thanks, Abby. — Anonymous and Sober in the South

Dear Anonymous: So would I, and you're welcome. There is no shortage of nosy questions

that people don't hesitate to ask these days, as anyone who has read this column is aware. However, to many people, membership in AA is a badge of honor. When "pushed" to answer why they are not drinking alcohol they are upfront about the fact they are in AA. Of course, one does not have to have a drinking problem to avoid alcohol. Some people refrain because they don't feel well when they drink; others do it because they are taking antibiotics or want to live a healthier lifestyle. The bottom line is you do not have to answer every question that's asked of you.

Dear Abby: When my husband of 19 years died suddenly 15

months ago (we had no children), my financial situation changed considerably. I have had trouble paying bills, and my water was turned off this morning. When I told my siblings and their families, their answers ranged from "I can't help you" to "Gee, that sucks!" to "Come have meatloaf for dinner."

My niece, who is financially well-off, commented that it sucked. I told them all that I have no water. I do have a five-day-a-week job. I just don't have a lot of money because of so many things that have happened. I'll have the money in a week or so, but I can't live without water for that long.

Is it wrong to want them to offer to help me? Am I expecting

too much? If the situation were reversed, I would offer help immediately. — In A Tough Spot in Kentucky

Dear Tough Spot: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your husband. No, it's not wrong to want your relatives to offer to help you out with a bridge loan until the money you're expecting arrives. However, because they didn't offer, ask them for one, and be willing to sign a note if they wish. Then cross your fingers that one of them agrees. If none of them do, approach your employer and ask for an advance on your salary, or contact the water company and ask if you can strike a deal. I wish you luck.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

U.K. drug dealer caught out by cheese photo posted online

The Associated Press

LONDON — A drug dealer in the English city of Liverpool thought he was the big cheese — until police got all the evidence they needed to arrest him from a picture he shared of himself holding a small block of creamy Stilton.

Carl Stewart, 39, was sentenced to 13 years and six months in prison at Liverpool Crown Court last week after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine, conspiracy to supply heroin, MDMA and ketamine and transferring criminal property.

Were it not for a photo he shared of himself holding the cheese block from the reputable British retailer, Marks & Spencer, he could very well still be supplying large amounts of drugs.

Stewart was arrested after he posted the photo on the encrypted messaging service EncroChat, via his handle "Toffeeforce." Unbeknownst to him, the service had been cracked by police in Europe. From that, his palm and fingerprints were analyzed and police had their man.

Merseyside Police detective inspector Lee Wilkinson said Stewart had been "caught out by his love of Stilton cheese."



Carl Stewart/Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police released these photos Thursday May 27, 2021, showing Carl Stewart, left, and the photo he posted of himself holding a block of cheese that police used to identify Stewart, who was jailed May 21 for 13 years and six months on various drugs charges.

Stewart isn't alone in having his criminal activities brought to a premature end by his activities on EncroChat. Merseyside Police say around 60,000 users have now been identified worldwide, with about 10,000 of them in the U.K. alone. All are said to be involved in coordinating and planning the supply and distribution of drugs and weapons, money laundering and other criminal activity.

Merseyside Police arrested more than 60 people as part of Operation Venetic, and three more criminals were sentenced to long-term prison

terms May 26. Three more were due for sentencing May 27.

Shaun Harrison, 33, was one of those, sentenced to 10 years and eight months in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine and cannabis. Harrison was caught out after he revealed personal details of himself on EncroChat, on which he went by the handle "Scantbee and Sandferret."

"Merseyside Police, along with law enforcement agencies across the world, will leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of those

people who think they are above the law, and we will continue to target anyone involved in serious organized crime to keep this positive momentum going," Wilkinson said.

BAD DREAM STOPPED EVEREST GUIDE FROM CLIMBING PEAK 26TH TIME

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A record-holding Sherpa climber halted his attempt to scale Mount Everest for a 26th time because of a bad dream but plans to try again next year.

Kami Rita already reached the summit of the world's highest mountain for a record 25th time earlier this month but stopped his most recent climb more than halfway to the top.

"I was making (the 26th) attempt and had reached up to Camp Three but the weather turned bad and I had a really bad dream," Rita said on return to Kathmandu on a helicopter from the mountain May 25.

"The gods were telling me not to go and because I really believe in God, I decided to return," he said but would not elaborate on the dream.

Sherpas believe Everest to be a

goddess and have a religious ceremony before stepping on the mountain to make their climbs.

Rita said he would certainly return next year to try to scale the peak a 26th time.

His wife, a few of his friends and government officials greeted him at the Kathmandu airport, but there was no celebratory parade like in the past because the capital is under lockdown due to spiking cases of coronavirus.

Rita and 11 other Sherpa guides reached the summit May 7 and fixed ropes that enabled hundreds of other climbers to use the icy route to the top.

Rita did not comment about the current virus situation on Everest and government officials greeted him after a prominent Austrian outfitter over the weekend said at least 100 climbers and support staff on the mountain were infected.

Nepalese mountaineering officials have denied there were any active cases at the base camps for climbing the country's Himalayan mountains.

Foreign guide Lukas Furtenbach halted his Everest expedition due to virus fears and said the outbreak was obvious because he could see sick people at base camp and hear them coughing in their tents.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Clear and mild	Mostly sunny and hot	Very warm	Very warm with sunshine	Mostly sunny and nice
Baker City	50	93 56	92 54	86 48	80 41
Comfort Index™	4	3	4	6	8
La Grande	55	95 62	88 58	86 50	79 45
Comfort Index™	4	3	4	6	8
Enterprise	53	91 58	89 57	84 46	78 44
Comfort Index™	6	3	4	6	8

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 Sunday	79°	80°	85°
Low Sunday	35°	36°	36°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.57	0.06	0.50
Normal month to date	1.43	1.92	2.16
Year to date	2.23	5.90	14.21
Normal year to date	4.48	7.73	11.85

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	NE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	12.1
Evapotranspiration	0.28

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

Phillips Reservoir	17% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	90% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	49% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	98% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	56% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	89% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	4280 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	64 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	78 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	184 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1420 cfs
Powder River near Richland	37 cfs

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 113° Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 23° West Yellowstone, Mont.
Wettest: 3.03" Roswell, N.M.

OREGON
High: 91° Medford
Low: 30° Meacham
Wettest: none

WEATHER HISTORY

On June 1, 1843, snow whitened the ground in Cleveland, Ohio, and Buffalo, N.Y. Cleveland and Buffalo have the most hours of summer sunshine of the major cities in their respective states.

SUN & MOON

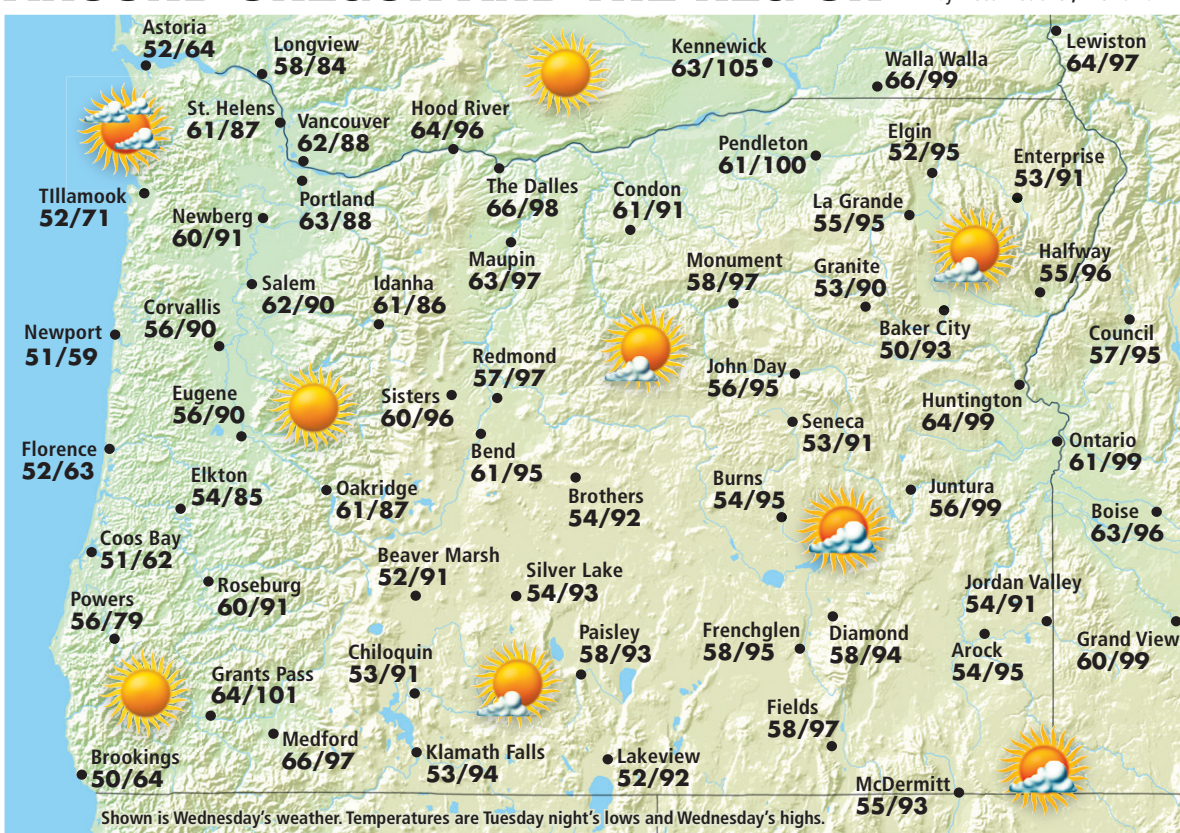
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	5:08 a.m.	5:07 a.m.
Sunset	8:33 p.m.	8:34 p.m.
Moonrise	1:38 a.m.	2:02 a.m.
Moonset	11:46 a.m.	12:55 p.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED.		THU.		City	WED.		THU.			
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W			
Astoria	64/54/c	62/50/c	Lewiston	97/66/s	95/63/pc	Bend	95/58/c	89/54/pc	Longview	84/56/s	77/53/c
Boise	96/67/s	100/67/s	Meacham	94/58/s	88/54/pc	Brookings	64/50/pc	64/51/pc	Medford	97/63/s	93/61/s
Burns	95/60/s	92/58/s	Newport	59/50/c	59/50/c	Coos Bay	62/48/c	62/51/c	Olympia	81/52/s	73/50/c
Council Bluffs	90/51/s	83/52/pc	Ontario	99/64/s	100/71/pc	Corvallis	90/51/s	83/54/pc	Pasco	104/66/s	101/63/s
Elgin	95/58/s	96/59/pc	Portland	88/58/s	81/58/pc	Hermiston	105/70/s	100/67/pc	Pendleton	100/69/s	95/63/pc
Hood River	96/68/s	89/61/pc	Redmond	79/54/pc	78/53/pc	Hood River	96/68/s	89/61/pc	Powers	91/57/s	86/57/pc
Imnaha	95/61/s	97/61/c	Roseburg	91/57/s	86/57/pc	John Day	95/62/s	91/58/pc	Salem	90/58/s	85/57/pc
Joseph	91/58/s	89/55/t	Salem	92/65/s	91/61/s	Kennewick	105/68/s	102/67/s	The Dalles	98/68/s	93/63/pc
Klamath Falls	94/53/s	91/51/s	Ukiah	92/58/s	87/49/pc	Lakeview	92/53/pc	92/50/s	Walla Walla	99/71/s	95/64/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Warm with sunshine	Mostly sunny; warm
69 53	92 56
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Mostly sunny; warm	Sunny and hot
80 58	95 63
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Mostly sunny; warm	Mostly sunny; warm
76 45	88 50
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Sunshine and warm	Very hot
91 58	98 65 HOT
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Hot	Mostly sunny; hot
93 56	95 62

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