

Food fight results in friendship's bitter end



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: When a friend of mine "makes dinner" for invited guests, it's either takeout Chinese food or delivered pizza. Frankly, I am sick of it. Last Thanksgiving, they invited me and several others over for dinner. You guessed it! Chinese food. I told my friend I was surprised and not in the mood for Chinese food, offered my apologies and left. We didn't talk for four months.

This past year I was again invited to Thanksgiving dinner. I declined and, when asked why, said, "I'm sick and tired of what is being offered." The response was, "Then I guess I'll stop inviting

you. And I don't need your friendship." I replied, "Glad we are on the same page!"

Abby, this "friend" knows how to cook and could certainly order something different. Was I out of line? I have no regrets the friendship has ended. — **FED UP IN THE WEST**

DEAR FED UP: When someone accepts an invitation to someone's home, rather than criticize the menu, they should be grateful for the hospitality being extended. Were you out of line? The way you phrased your reason for declining was rude. You could have inquired about the menu and asked if you could bring something more "traditional." It's fortunate you have no regrets that your relationship with your former host has ended. I'm pretty

sure the feelings are mutual.

DEAR ABBY: On Sunday evening, a much older woman I'd never met came to my door saying she was a neighbor and was there to recruit me to participate in a political lobbying event her church was sponsoring. This is not something I wish to do.

I tried to refuse nicely. But then she said several times she required my name, email address and phone number so she could send me more information as well as opportunities to pass the information to other people. I asked for her information instead, but saying "no, thank you" and trying to excuse myself to get back to my children didn't lessen her persistence. Eventually, I apologized and closed the door on her.

People should not be harassed

in their home, even though she may very well be a neighbor in this small neighborhood. How could I have handled this better? — **NO SOLICITING**

DEAR NO SOLICITING: The person who came to your door had an agenda; it wasn't a social call. In a situation like the one that was thrust upon you, good manners did not require you to offer an apology. Frankly, you should have closed your front door **SOONER**.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 65-year-old woman who has never enjoyed sex. I've had lovers, and I'm a very affectionate person, but the act itself has never been comfortable for me. Now that I'm post-menopausal, it's practically impossible.

I have never been married, but

I want to find someone. In fact, I yearn for a life partner. I'm on dating sites, and my question is: How should I describe myself? It seems most men want sex. Should I include my lack of interest in sex in my profile so they know what they're getting? I don't want to waste anyone's time, especially not my own. But this feels so weird and awkward to address. — **EVERYTHING BUT THAT IN NEW YORK**

DEAR EVERYTHING BUT: It would benefit you to go online and search for dating sites for people who want romance only, without sex. These sites do exist, and it may comfort you to know that you are DEFINITELY not alone. If you do try one, I hope you find the man you are looking for.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Meet Methuselah, the oldest living aquarium fish

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Meet Methuselah, the fish that likes to eat fresh figs, get belly rubs and is believed to be the oldest living aquarium fish in the world.

In the Bible, Methuselah was Noah's grandfather and was said to have lived to be 969 years old. Methuselah the fish is not quite that ancient, but biologists at the California Academy of Sciences believe it is about 90 years old, with no known living peers.

Methuselah is a 4-foot-long, 40-pound Australian lungfish that was brought to the San Francisco museum in 1938 from Australia.

A primitive species with lungs and gills, Australian lungfish are believed to be the evolutionary link between fish and amphibians.

No stranger to publicity, Methuselah's first appearance in the San Francisco Chronicle was in 1947: "These strange creatures — with green scales looking like fresh artichoke leaves — are known to scientists as a possible 'missing link' between terrestrial and aquatic animals."

Until a few years ago, the oldest Australian lungfish was at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. But that fish, named Granddad, died in 2017 at the age of 95.



Jeff Chiu/The Associated Press

Senior biologist Allan Jan feeds Methuselah, a 4-foot-long, 40-pound Australian lungfish that was brought to the California Academy of Sciences in 1938 from Australia, in its tank in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

"By default, Methuselah is the oldest," said Allan Jan, senior biologist at the California Academy of Sciences and the fish's keeper. Methuselah's caretakers believe the fish is female, although it's difficult to determine the species' sex without a risky blood draw. The academy plans to send a tiny sample of her fin to researchers in Australia, who will try to confirm the sex and figure out the fish's exact age.

Jan says Methuselah likes getting rubbed on her back and belly and has a "mellow" personality.

"I tell my volunteers, pretend she's an underwater puppy, very mellow,

gentle, but of course if she gets spooked she will have sudden bouts of energy. But for the most part she's just calm," Jan said. Methuselah has developed a taste for seasonal figs.

"She's a little picky and only likes figs when they are fresh and in season. She won't eat them when they're frozen," said Jeanette Peach, spokeswoman for the California Academy of Sciences.

Organic blackberries, grapes and romaine lettuce are rotated into her daily diet, which also includes a variety of fish, clams, prawns and earthworms, said Charles Delbeek, curator of the museum's Steinhart Aquarium.

The academy has two other Australian lungfish that are younger. Named for their sizes, "Medium" arrived at the museum in 1952 and "Small" in 1990, both from the Mary River, in Queensland, Australia, said Delbeek. They weigh about 25 pounds and 15 pounds, respectively.

The Australian lungfish is now a threatened species and can no longer be exported from Australian waters, so biologists at the academy say it's unlikely they'll get a replacement once Methuselah passes away.

"We just give her the best possible care we can provide, and hopefully she thrives," Jan said.

2nd cruise ship remains in Bahamas over lawsuit

MIAMI — Crystal Cruises said Tuesday, Feb. 1, that a second of its ships diverted to the Bahamas, avoiding a U.S. judge's order to seize one of its vessels in a legal dispute over fuel bills.

The Crystal Serenity arrived in Bimini Monday after the ship was denied entry into Aruba on Jan. 28, a company statement said.

All passengers were transferred by a fast ferry to Port Everglades and taken to a Fort Lauderdale hotel Jan. 31, and the passengers will be reimbursed for any applicable airline change fees, spokesman Vance Guliksen said.

"There are simply no words to express our deep regret and disappointment," the company's statement said.

The arrest warrant for the ships is part of a lawsuit accusing the cruise line of failing to pay \$4.6 million for fuel. A federal judge issued the warrant for the ship Jan. 20, a maritime practice in which a U.S. Marshal boards a vessel and takes charge of it once it enters U.S. waters.

Some passengers on the voyage, a long expedition that was originally set to end in California in late May, said they were glad to leave.

"I'm delighted to be off that ship," said Barry Shulman, 75, of Las Vegas.

The Crystal Serenity departed Miami on Jan. 17, but passengers were informed several days later that the ship had to cancel port calls at the last minute.

The company announced it was suspending operations through late April, canceling or cutting short itineraries for the Crystal Serenity and two other ships, to "provide Crystal's management team with an opportunity to evaluate the current state of business and examine various options moving forward."

One of the other ships, the Crystal Symphony, was supposed to return to Miami last week but also remained in the Bahamas. That ship's passengers were also ferried back to South Florida.

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Mostly cloudy	Afternoon snow	Times of clouds and sun	Mostly sunny and chilly	Partly sunny and chilly
Baker City	17	30 16	32 16	31 16	33 14
Comfort Index™	0	0	3	1	0
La Grande	26	34 25	38 20	36 24	37 24
Comfort Index™	0	0	3	1	1
Enterprise	19	36 24	39 19	42 24	38 26
Comfort Index™	2	2	4	6	4

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	31°	37°	39°
Low Tuesday	3°	23°	26°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	Trace	0.10	0.29
Month to date	Trace	0.10	0.29
Normal month to date	0.02	0.04	0.09
Year to date	0.38	1.37	4.22
Normal year to date	0.72	1.71	3.36

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 83° Zapata, Texas
Low: -33° Van Buren, Maine
Wettest: 1.70" Springfield, Mo.

OREGON
High: 53° Brookings
Low: 3° Baker City
Wettest: 0.17" Tillamook

WEATHER HISTORY

Snag, Yukon, has the record for the coldest Canadian temperature ever, with 81 degrees below zero on Feb. 3, 1947. The same day, temperatures in the interior of Alaska dropped as low as 75 degrees below zero.

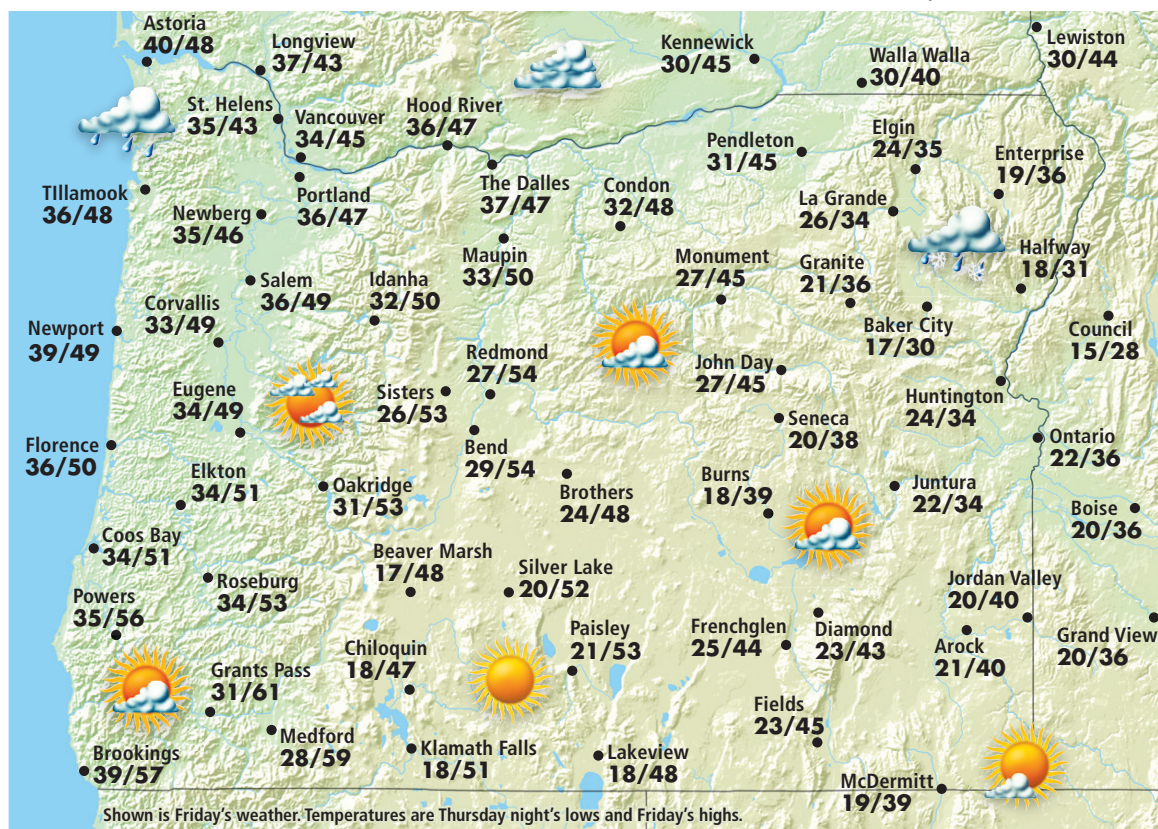
SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:11 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Sunset	5:02 p.m.	5:04 p.m.
Moonset	8:58 a.m.	9:19 a.m.
Moonrise	8:14 p.m.	9:25 p.m.

MOON PHASES	First	Full	Last	New
	Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI.		SAT.		City	FRI.		SAT.	
	Hi/Lo	W/sh	Hi/Lo	W/sh		Hi/Lo	W/sh	Hi/Lo	W/sh
Astoria	48/38	sh	50/35	pc	Lewiston	44/34	sn	49/29	c
Bend	54/24	c	54/22	s	Longview	43/40	sh	48/29	pc
Boise	36/20	s	34/20	pc	Meacham	35/26	sn	37/19	pc
Brookings	57/40	pc	65/42	s	Medford	59/27	c	58/29	pc
Burns	39/17	s	42/17	s	Newport	49/39	c	52/38	pc
Coos Bay	51/37	c	58/36	s	Olympia	48/41	sh	51/34	pc
Corvallis	49/37	c	50/30	pc	Ontario	36/18	s	37/19	pc
Council Bluffs	28/17	pc	38/11	c	Pasco	43/33	c	51/29	pc
Elgin	35/27	sn	38/18	pc	Pendleton	45/37	pc	51/28	pc
Eugene	49/39	c	50/32	pc	Portland	47/40	c	51/33	pc
Hermiston	46/41	c	52/30	pc	Powers	56/37	c	61/38	s
Hood River	47/43	sh	50/35	pc	Redmond	54/25	pc	53/21	s
Imnaha	44/27	sn	47/24	c	Roseburg	53/35	c	52/30	pc
John Day	45/21	pc	40/22	pc	Salem	49/39	c	52/32	pc
Joseph	37/24	sf	38/23	pc	Spokane	36/29	sn	37/26	c
Kennewick	45/36	c	51/28	pc	The Dalles	47/43	c	51/35	pc
Klamath Falls	51/19	pc	52/16	s	Ukiah	40/26	c	42/22	pc
Lakeview	48/19	s	51/17	s	Walla Walla	40/37	sn	46/31	pc

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

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	P.M. snow showers	26	23
MT. EMILY REC.	P.M. snow showers	31	26
EAGLE CAP WILD.	P.M. snow showers	27	16
WALLOWA LAKE	P.M. snow showers	37	24
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Cold	30	16
PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly cloudy	34	24
BROWNLEE RES.	Some sun; chilly	38	21
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Afternoon snow	35	24
MCKAY RESERVOIR	A shower	49	35
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Afternoon snow	34	25