

DEAR ABBY

Family registers disapproval by unframing man's fiancée

Dear Abby: After two years of dating, my boyfriend and I recently got engaged. We're in our 30s and grew up in the same town. It will be a second marriage for both of us. We were each previously married close to 10 years. I have four children; he has none.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
ADVICE

He loves my children like they are his own, and they love him. His family was nice to me at the beginning, thinking that it wouldn't last. I know they aren't fond of the fact I have four kids, and they think he should find a woman who doesn't have any.

We have been very happy together, but when we got engaged, his family got very upset because he didn't ask them how they felt or tell them he was going to do it. I think they would have discouraged it immediately.

I feel awful because he's very close with his family. He always backs me 100 percent, but I don't want to tear them apart. I don't want him to not want to see them. He's very family oriented, and it breaks my heart that he wants all of us to be close. They

aren't outright rude, but they make me feel uncomfortable, like I'm not good enough for their son/brother.

All of a sudden, his brothers/sister and their spouses have stopped talking to me. They have deleted me on social media. We have never gotten into an argument or anything, so I'm at a loss. Should I marry him? — **Getting the Cold Shoulder**

Dear Getting: This is something you and your fiancé must decide together with your eyes wide open. You say his family hasn't been outright rude, but I beg to differ. Making people feel uncomfortable, giving them the silent treatment and unframing them is rude.

These appear to be extremely controlling people. You need to decide if you can coexist with in-laws like this, and your fiancé needs to decide which family is more important — the one he will form with you and your children, or the one he was born into. He may not be able to have both. You have my sympathy.

Dear Abby: I am a gay male in my

late 20s, finishing up my grad school program. My boyfriend is older than I am by seven years. We met in 2017, but I suffered a loss in my family and was grieving for about six months. We met again over the summer and continued our relationship from June to the present.

He just texted me about the future, saying he wants children in a year or two. I am anxious and sad because this feels like a make-or-break decision. I do want children and think I will be a good father. However, a child is a huge responsibility, and I am well aware of that. I don't know how soon I'll be ready. I don't even know what the next year will bring. What say you, Dear Abby? — **Lacks Certainty in Minnesota**

Dear Lacks Certainty: I say you need to return your boyfriend's text and tell him exactly what you have written to me. Your feelings are honest, and your thinking is clear. Now that you know where he stands, it is important he knows where you do.

That said, I'm surprised this subject was brought up in a text and not during a one-on-one conversation because of its importance.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 9-10, 1919

A strong appeal is being made for the preservation of the national game reserve in Harney county as a memorial of Colonel Roosevelt by William L. Findley, state biologist. It was Roosevelt, when president of the United States, who issued the proclamation making a federal game preserve of Harney and Malheur lakes. The reserve is now the greatest natural breeding ground for water fowl in the United States. An effort is being made to get a bill through the Oregon legislature permitting the draining of the lakes to permit the farming of the land. Pendleton men are asked to send protests against the passage of the law to members of the legislature.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 9-10, 1969

Two Pendleton men may have saved the lives of three people Saturday on snow-swept Highway 204 near Tollgate. Jerry Keown and Lyle Zink, employes of Pacific Power and Light Co., were on their way to work on the Walla Walla-Enterprise transmission line about noon when they saw a car

buried in snow but its motor still running. They investigated and found the car's occupants nearly overcome, probably by carbon monoxide from the engine's exhaust. Keown and Zink, trained in first aid, got the people out of the car and rendered resuscitation, reported Charles McQueary, PP&L's Pendleton district manager. The car's passengers were not identified, but all recovered rapidly in the fresh air outside the vehicle.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 9-10, 1994

Emergency planners have been budgeted money to create safe rooms in Hermiston-area schools to protect them from a chemical weapons emergency. About \$2 million from the federal government will be used for "positive overpressurization" rooms in each of the schools. In such a room, air leaks would be sealed off and the air intake would be filtered. The air pressure would be higher inside than outside, keeping contaminated air from seeping in. Hermiston's Good Shepherd Community Hospital and Good Samaritan Center nursing home also would be outfitted with safe rooms under the program.

ODDS & ENDS

In year of pig, Hong Kong debates its boar problem

By ALICE FUNG
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Like many Asian communities, Hong Kong ushers in the astrological year of the pig. That's also good timing to discuss the financial center's contested relationship with its wild boar population.

While some argue for an ongoing cull to keep the boar numbers down, others urge preservation, a position the government has lately embraced.

A growing human population and encroaching urbanization have brought humans and wild pigs into increasing proximity, with the boars making frequent appearances on roadways, in housing developments and even in shopping centers.

The debate about how to handle them comes as the densely populated city of more than 7 million people is being festooned with pig-themed decorations in preparation for the holiday that officially began on Feb. 5.

Not far from its cramped apartment blocks and neon lights, Hong Kong has plenty of green land, traditionally home to a variety of animals, including wild boars. Some areas where homes are close to parks or forests, such as Aberdeen in Hong Kong Island's south, have become popular spots for growing numbers of boars to forage for food amid the garbage cans.

The boars often don't hesitate to get close to people and traffic.

The government's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department says it doesn't know how many wild boars there are in Hong Kong. But it has acknowledged a big increase in public complaints about the animals over the past five years



A wild boar scavenges for food while local residents watch at a country park in Hong Kong.

— from 294 in 2013 to 738 in 2017.

That prompted a review of policy starting last year, which included a halt to hunts by volunteer teams for boars deemed to be threats to property or public safety. Instead, the government is extending a policy of sterilizing the animals and feeding them contraceptives, as well as discouraging the public from providing them food. It also captures and tries to relocate wild boars away from residential areas as an alternative to killing them.

However, one local organization, "Wild Boar 70," is lobbying for the renewed culling of the wild boar population.

Other countries with large populations of wild pigs have a policy of controlling them by killing 70 percent of their numbers every year, according to spokesman Wesley Ho.

"Our goal is hopefully to raise public concern about Hong Kong's current problem of wild boar overpopulation, and about exactly what kind of animal these wild

boars are," Ho said.

Nations such as France and the U.S. have to deal with large-scale damage to agriculture wrought by feral pigs, largely appealing to hunters as a solution.

Denmark this month began erecting a 43.4-mile fence along the German border to keep out wild boars in an attempt to prevent the spread of African swine fever, which could jeopardize the country's valuable pork industry.

With agriculture a minor player in the local economy, such concerns aren't much of an issue in Hong Kong's current debate.

However, Roni Wong, of the Hong Kong Wild Boar Concern Group, says that development expanding into Hong Kong's green areas is causing the increasing confrontation between humans and animals.

"The situation that we are seeing is that their habitats are slowly being urbanized," Wong said. "So their chances of feeding, and their habitat, are being destroyed and affected."

By now, Hong Kong

social media users are highly familiar with videos of wild boars taken by drivers and pedestrians. Sometimes they show a herd rushing across a road in front of cars in a manner that looks dangerous to both themselves and drivers.

Other times, they come across as cute, cuddly and unthreatening, often raising a snout to the camera as if in greeting.

Hong Kong's government says it hopes to complete its policy review of wild boar management within the year. Until then, the year of the pig seems primed for many more encounters between boar and man in Hong Kong's mix of hilly forest and urban sprawl.

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four facial expressions □ □ □ □
- Four five-letter boats □ □ □ □
- Three eight-letter mammals □ □ □ □
- Three flowing bodies of water □ □ □ □
- Cake coating □

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: GRIMACE, FROWN, SMILE, GIRL, CANOE, BARBE, FERRY, SKIFF, CHIMPUNK, HEDGEHOG, AARDVARK, STREAM, CREEK, RIVER, ICING

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G	G	S	T	R	E	A	M	B	K	G	K
C	R	R	I	V	E	R	Y	N	O	R	C
A	I	C	I	N	G	U	H	A	E	R	
N	M	J	N	D	N	M	E	V	G	Y	E
O	A	Z	L	W	P	G	D	R	R	L	E
E	C	K	O	I	D	R	A	R	I	C	K
C	E	R	H	E	A	B	E	M	J	H	J
B	F	C	H	A	V	F	S	K	I	F	F

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 actress and singer Justice (8)	_____
2 landlocked African nation (6)	_____
3 home of Wolverines football (8)	_____
4 Managua is its capital (9)	_____
5 Pulitzer-winning poet Gluck (6)	_____
6 well above average (8)	_____
7 where 38% of Canadians live (7)	_____

MAL	ONT	AWI	TO	HI
AG	GAN	RIA	UA	IOR
NI	PER	MIC	LOU	CAR
AR	SU	IO	VIC	ISE

Today's answers: 1. VICTORIA 2. MALAWI 3. MICHIGAN 4. NICARAGUA 5. LOUISE 6. SUPERIOR 7. ONTARIO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Feb. 9, 1964, The Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York on CBS.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a congress held in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II. Daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks moved one hour forward.

The SS Normandie, a former French liner being refitted for the U.S. Navy at a New York pier, caught fire (it capsized early the next morning).

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1960, Adolph Coors Co. chairman Adolph Coors III, 44, was shot to death in suburban Denver during a botched kidnapping attempt. (The man who killed him, Joseph Corbett Jr., served 19 years in prison.)

In 1964, the G.I. Joe action figure was introduced at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko.

In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died in London at age 71.

In 2005, Hewlett-Packard Co. chief executive Carly Fiorina was forced out by board members, ending her nearly six-year reign.

In 2017, a federal appeals court refused to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, unanimously rejecting the administration's claim of presidential authority, questioning its motives and concluding that the order was unlikely to survive legal challenges.

Today's Birthdays: Television journalist Roger Mudd is 91. Actress Janet Suzman is 80. Nobel Prize-winning author J.M. Coetzee is 79. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl (TV: "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 78. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 77. Actor Joe Pesci is 76. Singer Barbara Lewis is 76. Author Alice Walker is 75. Actress Mia Farrow is 74. Former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., is 73. Singer Joe Ely is 72. Actress Judith Light is 70.

Thought for Today: "The man who has eaten enough will never believe a hungry one." — Albanian proverb.

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