

Demand for tips from online company makes wife see red

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently broke his eyeglasses. Because they couldn't be repaired locally, he sent them by mail to a company that had been referred to him. They fixed his glasses and returned them to him.

A short time later he received an email from the company "salesperson" requesting a tip! ("If you are happy with me as your salesperson and would like to give me a tip, please click on the link below.") My husband replied, "Can you please send me a receipt? I need it for my records." She replied, "How much will you tip me?" He said, "Is the only way I can get a receipt for my repairs if I tip you?" She replied, "Yes, can you give me \$5?"

I have never heard of an online company soliciting tips before, let alone refusing to send a receipt unless one is given. How would you respond to this? Getting a receipt is not the important thing here; it's the solicitation that dumbfounds me!

— DUMBFOUNDED IN TINLEY PARK
DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: Every time I think I have heard everything, a letter like yours crosses my desk. The word for what that salesperson is attempting is extortion. Your husband should contact the owner of the company that repaired his glasses, tell the person the name of the employee who is trying to extort money and the date it happened, and request the receipt. If it doesn't arrive posthaste, the company should be reported to the Better Business Bureau.

P.S. Who referred you to that company? That person should also be informed about what has been going on.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since my son was a baby (he's almost 6 now), my husband and I have printed photograph invitations for his birthday parties. We sent the invitations to everyone, including those who lived too far away to attend, so people could have a current picture of him.

After reading many of your archives, I realize this may be perceived as a bid for gifts, and I no longer wish to do it. I would still like to send out a picture card of some

sort. Any ideas on how to do it without making anyone think we want gifts?

— DON'T WANT TO MAKE WAVES

DEAR DON'T: A way to do that would be to send them during the holidays when your friends and relatives are sending out cards to friends and acquaintances.

DEAR ABBY: I work the newspaper crossword puzzle every day. I came across an answer recently that stumped me. It was an "abbreviation for bowling lane." The answer was AMF. I'm asking you

what it stands for because I cannot get a straight answer. What is so secretive about this logo? Please help.

— STUMPED IN TEXAS

DEAR STUMPED: The clue may have been misleading. AMF is a BRAND. It stands for American Machine and Foundry, which many years ago was one of the nation's largest recreational equipment companies.

DEAR ABBY: I'm originally from El Salvador. I have been living in the U.S. for five years, have been studying English for four years and I have my GED.

I want to join the U.S. Marine Corps because it is my dream. I want to do it because I think that service to this country is the best thing I can do. I want to protect this country, and I want my family to be proud of me.

Here is the problem: My mom and my wife don't want me to do it because they say it is dangerous. I love them both, but I want to achieve my dream. What should I do?

— DREAMING IN HOUSTON

DEAR DREAMING: I appreciate the concern your mother and your wife feel for your safety. Because they love you, of course they worry. However, the person who must live your life is you. If joining the United States Marine Corps is your dream, then following your dream is what you should do. Now is the time to have a heart-to-heart talk with your wife because this decision will have an impact on her life as well as yours.

Record 1,100 dolphins wash up on French shores this year

Thomas Adamson
The Associated Press

PARIS — The dolphins' bodies were horribly mutilated, the fins cut off.

But what shocked French marine researchers wasn't just the brutality of the deaths of these highly intelligent mammals, but also the numbers involved — a record 1,100 have washed up on France's Atlantic coast since January.

The mass deaths, widely blamed on aggressive industrial fishing, have alarmed animal welfare groups and prompted France's ecology minister to launch a national plan to protect them.

"There's never been a number this high," said Willy Daubin, a member of La Rochelle University's National Center for Scientific Research. "Already in three months, we have beaten last year's record, which was up from 2017 and even that was the highest in 40 years."

Though Daubin said 90 percent of the fatalities resulted from accidental capture in industrial nets, the reason behind the spike this year is a mystery.

"What fishing machinery or equipment is behind all these deaths?" he asked.

Autopsies carried out on the dolphins this year by La Rochelle University's National Center for Scientific Research show extreme levels of mutila-

tion. Activists say a common practice is for fishermen to cut body parts off the suffocated dolphins after they are pulled up on the nets, to save the net itself.

French Ecology Minister Francois de Rugy rushed last Friday to La Rochelle in an attempt to lower the number dying as a result of human action. He's under pressure not least because of French President Emmanuel Macron's pro-ecology stance and oft-quoted slogan to "Make the Planet Great Again."

Rugy has come up with some plans, including bolstering research into existing acoustic repellent devices in place in some 26 two-vessel trawlers off the Bay of Biscay, an industrial fishing hub in the Atlantic Ocean. When activated, the devices send unpleasant signals to nearby dolphins that cause them to swim away.

But animal rights group Sea Shepherd said they do not go far enough, and has already decried such measures as "useless."

It claims many of the trawlers they watch in the region don't activate the repellent devices owing to fears they will scare off valuable fish as well, and operators only turn them on if they are checked by an "onboard observer."

It also said increasing the number of devices is no long-term solution for

the underwater mammals as the move would make the ocean an uninhabitable drum of noise pollution.

"The government needs to take responsibility and act — especially Macron, who said he wanted to protect ecology," Lamya Essemblali, President of Sea Shepherd France, told The Associated Press.

She pointed to scientists who predict the current rates of fishing will likely drive the dolphin population to extinction.

"The spotlight has been put on the trawlers that fish for sea bass ..., which is a scandal. But they were not the only ones responsible."

She suggested that aggressive hake fishing, which was given the green light three years ago after long ban, was a major factor. The spike in dolphin deaths also began three years ago.

Sea Shepherd explained the ecological crisis as stemming from unprecedented demand for low-cost fish.

"Right now, the sea bass that is being caught by the trawlers that kill dolphins, you can find on the French market for eight euros-per-kilo (\$4-per-pound)," she said.

Global seafood consumption has more than doubled in the past 50 years, according to European Commission, a rate that rights groups have branded unsustainable.

weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Becoming cloudy	A couple of showers	A couple of showers
Baker City 28 Comfort Index™ 4	57 30 10	59 35 9	57 41 4	55 33 0
La Grande 32 Comfort Index™ 3	56 34 10	58 38 9	55 41 3	52 35 2
Enterprise 30 Comfort Index™ 2	51 31 10	54 36 8	53 39 4	49 32 0

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.

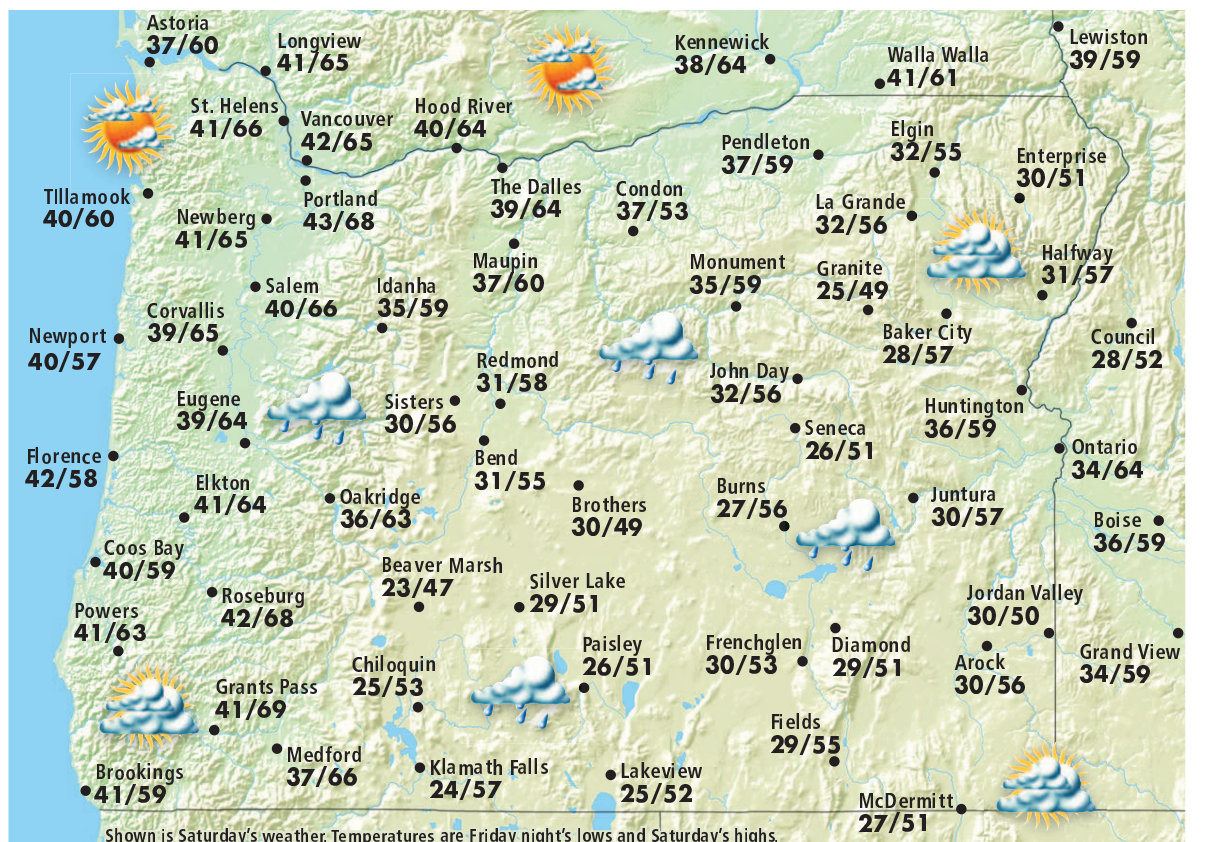
ALMANAC			
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Wednesday	51°	45°	44°
Low Wednesday	37°	35°	34°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	0.23	0.29	0.00
Month to date	1.17	0.76	1.46
Normal month to date	0.71	1.26	1.93
Year to date	3.63	4.91	11.35
Normal year to date	2.09	4.03	7.43

WED. EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 88°	Death Valley, Calif.		
Low: -10°	Clayton Lake, Maine		
Wettest: 2.32"	Redding, Calif.		
OREGON			
High: 65°	Ontario		
Low: 22°	Odell Lake		
Wettest: 0.40"	Salem		

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	40%		
Afternoon wind	N at 4 to 8 mph		
Hours of sunshine	1.0		
Evapotranspiration	0.10		
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)			
Phillips Reservoir	14% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	54% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	57% of capacity		
Mckay Reservoir	85% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	49% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	108% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	9880 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.		
Burnt River near Unity	31 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	764 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	552 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	1160 cfs		

SUN & MOON			
Sunrise	6:39 a.m.	6:37 a.m.	
Sunset	7:16 p.m.	7:17 p.m.	
Moonrise	3:38 a.m.	4:19 a.m.	
Moonset	12:50 p.m.	1:47 p.m.	
MOON PHASES			
New	First	Full	Last
Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY			
City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	60/41/pc	59/42/c	Lewiston	59/38/pc	61/43/pc	ANTHONY LAKES	32 19
Bend	55/33/pc	57/39/c	Longview	65/43/pc	60/47/c	PHILLIPS LAKE	51 27
Boise	59/38/pc	63/42/pc	Meacham	53/32/pc	55/37/pc	BROWNLEE RES.	58 34
Brookings	59/45/pc	57/48/r	Medford	66/43/pc	68/48/c	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	48 27
Burns	56/31/pc	59/36/pc	Newport	57/44/pc	57/45/c	MCKAY RESERVOIR	58 38
Coos Bay	59/45/pc	56/49/r	Olympia	66/36/pc	63/40/c	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	56 34
Corvallis	65/42/pc	62/45/c	Ontario	64/35/pc	68/42/pc		
Council	52/30/pc	55/35/pc	Pasco	63/37/pc	63/43/pc		
Elgin	55/33/pc	57/38/pc	Pendleton	59/38/pc	60/44/pc		
Eugene	64/42/pc	63/46/c	Portland	68/45/pc	63/46/c		
Hermiston	64/38/pc	63/44/pc	Powers	63/46/pc	59/52/r		
Hood River	64/41/pc	61/44/c	Redmond	58/32/pc	61/37/c		
Imnaha	57/34/pc	60/40/pc	Roseburg	68/45/pc	66/49/r		
John Day	56/35/pc	59/42/pc	Salem	66/43/pc	64/46/c		
Joseph	51/31/pc	52/36/pc	Spokane	57/36/pc	58/39/pc		
Kennewick	64/39/pc	63/45/pc	The Dalles	64/41/pc	62/44/c		
Klamath Falls	57/30/pc	59/38/c	Ukiah	52/30/pc	54/36/pc		
Lakeview	52/29/pc	55/38/pc	Walla Walla	61/43/pc	62/47/pc		
Medford	37/66						
McDermitt	27/51						

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