

Mother’s extreme behavior disrupts family gatherings

DEAR ABBY: My mother is 86 and drives everyone in the family crazy when we have to spend time with her. She says things that make people cringe. She’s racist, homophobic, judgmental and critical of everybody and everything.

When we try to point out that what she says hurts people, she starts going into how much she is hurt -- daily -- by all of us, how “mean” we are to her, and how we are her family and need to be more loving. We all feel sorry for her and hate how lonely she is. We include her in all major holidays and family celebrations, but she is usually the cause of a major blowup or an overall downer for the gathering.

I wish I could help her see that she’s her own worst enemy. I hate the idea of excluding Mom from family gatherings, but it is nearing that point. She has no friends. She goes to radical political meetings and constantly tries to push her health products on us.

Do you have any suggestions for how to respond to someone who is so difficult for the whole family? I do love Mom and care about her, but am at my wits’ end.

-- REACHED THE END OF MY ROPE
DEAR REACHED: Your mother isn’t friendless. Her friends are the kindred spirits she sees at the radical political meetings. Because she disrupts family gatherings, you and your siblings need to work out a schedule so each of you sees Mom and takes her out individually. Ignore her comments as much as possible.

Will it be fun? Probably not. But more of her time will be filled, and you all will be able to enjoy the celebrations with her absent.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a receptionist. There’s a growing trend that people don’t bother to listen to their voicemail. Instead they’ll call our firm and say, “Someone from your office called me. I want to speak with them.” They get angry with me when I tell them I have no way of knowing who called them. Our firm is a large one.

I don’t know why people are so lazy and inconsiderate that they don’t listen to their messages. In a couple of instances important information was left on their voicemail, and the person missed critical deadlines that cost us money. The head of my firm deals with a lot of younger clients, and it seems the younger the person is, the less likely they will listen to any

of their voicemails, or their voicemail boxes are full, so it’s impossible to leave a message for them.

-- FRUSTRATED RECEPTIONIST

DEAR FRUSTRATED: If someone calls the main number, it may be that it’s the one that showed up on the person’s phone. Tell the caller that he or she has reached the MAIN number, and you need the name of the person

before you can make the connection. It’s the truth. It might also be helpful to suggest to your boss that because younger clients often don’t listen to their voicemails or pick up when their

phone rings, sending them an email or text might be more efficient.

DEAR ABBY: My sister “Thea” has distanced herself from the family. I understand why she did. Our parents were mentally, physically and emotionally abusive while we were growing up, with one who instigated the issues and the other taking it out on us kids.

I feel stuck in the middle of chaos. My parents have started to work on their behaviors and make amends for past conduct. It comes a bit too late for apologies, even for me, but I decided to give them a second chance since they seem sincere. Thea told them she wants nothing to do with them.

Recently, she contacted me asking me to suggest that my parents help out a family member who was in dire straits. I told Thea I would suggest it, but I couldn’t guarantee what their response would be. Their response was that if she wanted something from them, she needed to ask them herself and not through an intermediary.

I’m at a loss as to how to tell both sides that I’m tired of being the middleman, as this has become an emotional thing between all parties involved. I’m also not sure how to open the discussion for them to air their differences whether they reconcile or not. Help!

-- STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR STUCK: Thea has cut herself off from your parents for good reason. You are no more “in the middle” than you want to be. Tell your sister that if a family member is in trouble, that person should approach your parents and ask for help, not do it through you or another intermediary.



DEAR ABBY

AccuWeather

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weather

TONIGHT

Clear

Baker City

35

Comfort Index™

8

SAT

Sunny and very warm

Baker City

82

43

Comfort Index™

6

SUN

Mostly sunny and warm

Baker City

85

44

Comfort Index™

6

MON

Partly sunny and warm

Baker City

82

44

Comfort Index™

8

TUE

Partly sunny and warm

Baker City

82

46

Comfort Index™

8

La Grande

44

Comfort Index™

10

SAT

Sunny and very warm

La Grande

80

49

Comfort Index™

8

SUN

Mostly sunny and warm

La Grande

82

48

Comfort Index™

6

MON

Partly sunny and warm

La Grande

77

44

Comfort Index™

8

TUE

Partly sunny and warm

La Grande

77

49

Comfort Index™

8

Enterprise

42

Comfort Index™

9

SAT

Sunny and very warm

Enterprise

78

45

Comfort Index™

8

SUN

Mostly sunny and warm

Enterprise

79

45

Comfort Index™

8

MON

Partly sunny and warm

Enterprise

76

41

Comfort Index™

8

TUE

Partly sunny and warm

Enterprise

74

48

Comfort Index™

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 Wednesday

73°

71°

71°

Low Wednesday

38°

41°

39°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Wednesday

0.00

Trace

0.02

Month to date

0.00

Trace

0.02

Normal month to date

0.34

0.50

0.58

Year to date

4.47

7.22

16.94

Normal year to date

3.39

6.31

10.27

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 104°

Death Valley, Calif.

Low: 17°

Doe Lake, Mich.

Wettest: 4.50"

Mineola, Texas

OREGON

High: 85°

The Dalles

Low: 33°

Odell Lake

Wettest: Trace

La Grande

WEATHER HISTORY

On May 10, 1889, tornadoes hit several eastern Pennsylvania communities, including Reading, Pottsville, Shamokin and Philadelphia.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise

5:29 a.m.

5:28 a.m.

Sunset

8:09 p.m.

8:11 p.m.

Moonrise

10:31 a.m.

11:42 a.m.

Moonset

1:11 a.m.

1:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First

Full

Last

New

May 11

May 18

May 26

Jun 3

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

SAT.

SUN.

City

Hi/Low/W

Hi/Low/W

Astoria

66/51/s

61/48/s

Bend

83/47/s

83/46/s

Boise

80/52/s

87/55/s

Brookings

60/48/s

60/47/s

Burns

79/45/s

83/47/s

Coos Bay

63/48/s

61/46/s

Corvallis

84/48/s

78/46/s

Council

78/46/s

82/48/s

Elgin

80/48/s

81/47/s

Eugene

86/46/s

79/45/s

Hermiston

90/59/s

90/59/s

Hood River

89/58/s

83/54/s

Imnaha

83/48/s

85/51/s

John Day

81/49/s

83/50/s

Joseph

78/43/s

79/44/s

Kennewick

91/60/s

92/58/s

Klamath Falls

80/42/s

81/43/s

Lakeview

76/42/s

78/44/s

Lewisston

85/56/s

87/55/s

Longview

86/50/s

86/50/s

Meacham

78/46/s

80/45/s

Medford

92/54/s

89/52/s

Newport

60/48/s

60/48/s

Olympia

87/46/s

74/44/s

Ontario

85/51/s

89/56/s

Pasco

92/59/s

94/57/s

Pendleton

84/57/s

85/56/s

Portland

89/55/s

80/53/s

Powers

77/49/s

74/49/s

Redmond

86/45/s

85/44/s

Roseburg

90/50/s

84/49/s

Salem

86/49/s

79/47/s

Spokane

82/56/s

83/55/s

The Dalles

91/60/s

86/57/s

Ukiah

78/43/s

80/44/s

Walla Walla

86/62/s

88/60/s

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Sunny and mild

54

37

MT. EMILY REC.

Sunny and mild

67

46

EAGLE CAP WILD.

Sunny and warm

62

37

WALLOWA LAKE

Sunny and warm

78

43

THIEF VALLEY RES.

Sunny and warm

82

43

PHILLIPS LAKE

Sunny and warm

77

42

BROWNLEE RES.

Sunny and warm

82

48

EMIGRANT ST. PARK

Sunny and warm

75

40

MCKAY RESERVOIR

Sunny and warm

84

56

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK

Sunny and warm

80

49

GO

NORTH EAST OREGON

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