Man's tattoos draw fire from his disapproving wife

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My tattoos are destroying my marriage, and I just don't understand why. I'm a 56-year-old elementary art teacher and the father of three grown children. Since I was young, I have loved the artistic expression of tattoos, and I ALWAYS envisioned having them, lots of them.

It had been about 10 years since my last one, but I decided to get another one. Telling my wife about wanting another one was awful. My wife of 28 years hates tattoos. We have terrible arguments every time I get one. I have covered my entire upper body. (Other than my hands, none of them are visible while I'm wearing my work clothes.) I love them.

I just returned home with roses tattooed on my hands, and my wife is ready to leave me. She says I have gone too far with all my ink. I'm a responsible and respectful person. I don't drink, smoke, gamble or have any destructive vices. I'm highly regarded as a leader and role model at my school.

Friends, colleagues — even strangers — compliment me on my tattoos. However, you would think my tattoos and I are the devil in my wife's eyes. Am I the problem, or is her perception of tattoos the issue? Please, any advice would be greatly accepted. I can't understand her stance on this.

— ART IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ART: It is your body, and you have the right to do what you want with it. While not everyone is a fan of body art, I assume that you had tattoos before you and your wife married. It is possible that over the years, when you told your wife you were getting more, knowing her feelings about it, it came across to her as disrespectful of her feelings. As you have acquired more and more, it may have felt to her like one insult piled on another.

Having never spoken with your wife, I can't guess her reason for talking about leaving you, but it's important you ask why those roses were the last straw. (Am I correct in assuming there's no place else on your "canvas" that hasn't been illustrated?)

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 20-plus years. His mother has never liked me. I have never done anything to her or her husband.

My father-in-law passed away two years back, and my mother-in-law is older. If something happens to her, how am I supposed to react? I know I have to be there for my husband. My husband and I get along wonderfully, but at the same time, I would feel like a hypocrite if I went to her funeral. We haven't spoken in over a year.

Other family members have repeated things she has said about me as well as my family. I put up with her behavior for years. I only quit talking to her or going around her a year ago.

— HATES HYPOCRISY

DEAR HATES: Funerals are for the living. Do not succumb to the temptation to use your mother-in-law's as a platform to demonstrate your dislike of her. Attend the funeral and comfort your husband, who likely will be hurting and need your support. And when you do, ABOVE ALL, refrain from humming, "Ding, Dong, the Witch is Dead."

News of the Weird

In quieter Mexico City, rare bats make an appearance

MEXICO CITY — At a Mexico City university campus, researchers are stringing mesh nets between trees, hoping to capture evidence that a rare bat has begun visiting its favorite plants in this metropolis of 9 million.

The National Autonomous University's botanical gardens are filled with flowering morning glory, agave plants and cactuses that provide the bats with food; their long tongues and noses have evolved to drink nectar from the blooms.

The protected Mexican long-tongued bat was first sighted this year in an even more unlikely location: a zoo at the Chapultepec park in the city's center. Under pandemic rules, the park was closed or placed under strict visitation limits for much of the past year, and that may have encouraged the bats to come and feast.

"It is clear that we have seen that, as human activity declined in the city, wild animals have begun to re-take the city," said Rodrigo Medellín, a biologist at the university's Ecology Institute. "It is really divine justice that the bats are showing they can coexist with us, if only we give them a chance."

Marco Ugarte/Associated Press

A Mexican long-tongued bat consumes sugar water from a syringe after it was briefly captured and released for a study by Mexico's National Autonomous University, Ecology Institute biologist Rodrigo Medellin at the university's botanical gardens in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 16, 2021. The small dose of sugar water helps the bat recover from the stress and helps to obtain stool samples that can shed further light on its diet.

As people across the globe stay home to stop the spread of the coronavirus, animals have been venturing into places they aren't usually seen. Coyotes have meandered along downtown Chicago's Michigan Avenue and near San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. A puma roamed the streets of Santiago, Chile. Goats took over a town in Wales. In India, already daring wildlife has become bolder with hungry monkeys entering homes and opening refrigerators to look for food.

In Mexico, bioluminescent plankton appeared at some beaches in the normally bustling resort of Acapulco for the first time in memory, though researchers are not clear about whether a decrease in human activity was responsible. Some think the decline in man-made lighting may have simply made the phenomenon easier to spot.

As night begins to fall in the botanical garden in Mexico City, a shout rang out among the researchers. "We got one!"

With gloved hands, a student began to take the 4-inch animal out of the net. It could fit in the palm of one hand. Medellín was certain as soon as he saw it: It's a long-tongued bat, distinguishable by the elongated tip of its nose.

"I never would have thought it," he said of seeing the bat in Mexico City. Listed as threatened in 1994, the bat normally lives in dry forests and deserts, in a range that extends from the southwestern United States to Central America.

But it's not clear whether the long-tongued bat has begun re-colonizing Mexico City, or whether the bats are visiting now when its favorite plants are in bloom. The bats' migration patterns, or how far they fly, remain unclear, so researchers are trying to learn as much about the bat's incursion in Mexico City as they can.

Once the tiny bat was freed from the net, one researcher rubbed the bat's wings, back, nose and head with a small cube of gelatin, to pick up and preserve possible samples of pollen, to determine what plants the bat has been visiting.

The bat also got a dose of sugar water from a syringe, to help it recover from the stress and help obtain stool samples that can shed further light on its diet.

Finally, a microchip the size of a grain of rice was inserted into the animal's back, to help track its movements.

— Associated Press

AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Partly cloudy and cold	Breezy in the morning	Clouds limiting sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Sunny and mild
Baker City	26	56 27	60 27	64 28	69 31
Comfort Index™	3	3	5	10	10
La Grande	28	55 27	57 30	64 32	69 36
Comfort Index™	5	5	7	10	10
Enterprise	21	51 24	54 28	60 32	67 33
Comfort Index™	5	5	8	10	10

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	48°	49°	52°
Low Sunday	18°	19°	19°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.09
Month to date	Trace	0.02	0.10
Normal month to date	0.28	0.54	0.72
Year to date	1.09	5.71	13.27
Normal year to date	2.48	4.77	8.42

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY

Lowest relative humidity	30%
Afternoon wind	NNE at 8 to 16 mph
Hours of sunshine	7.9
Evapotranspiration	0.14

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	93% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	60% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	91% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	63% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	100% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	5110 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	79 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	72 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	355 cfs
Minam River at Minam	367 cfs
Powder River near Richland	235 cfs

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 101°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 8°	Daniel, Wyo.
Wettest: 2.52"	Crystal River, Fla.

OREGON

High: 68°	Medford
Low: 17°	Burns
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY

Five inches of snow thwarted plans for opening day of the Major League Baseball season in Boston on April 13, 1933. Snow has fallen on the Massachusetts coast as late as the beginning of May.

SUN & MOON

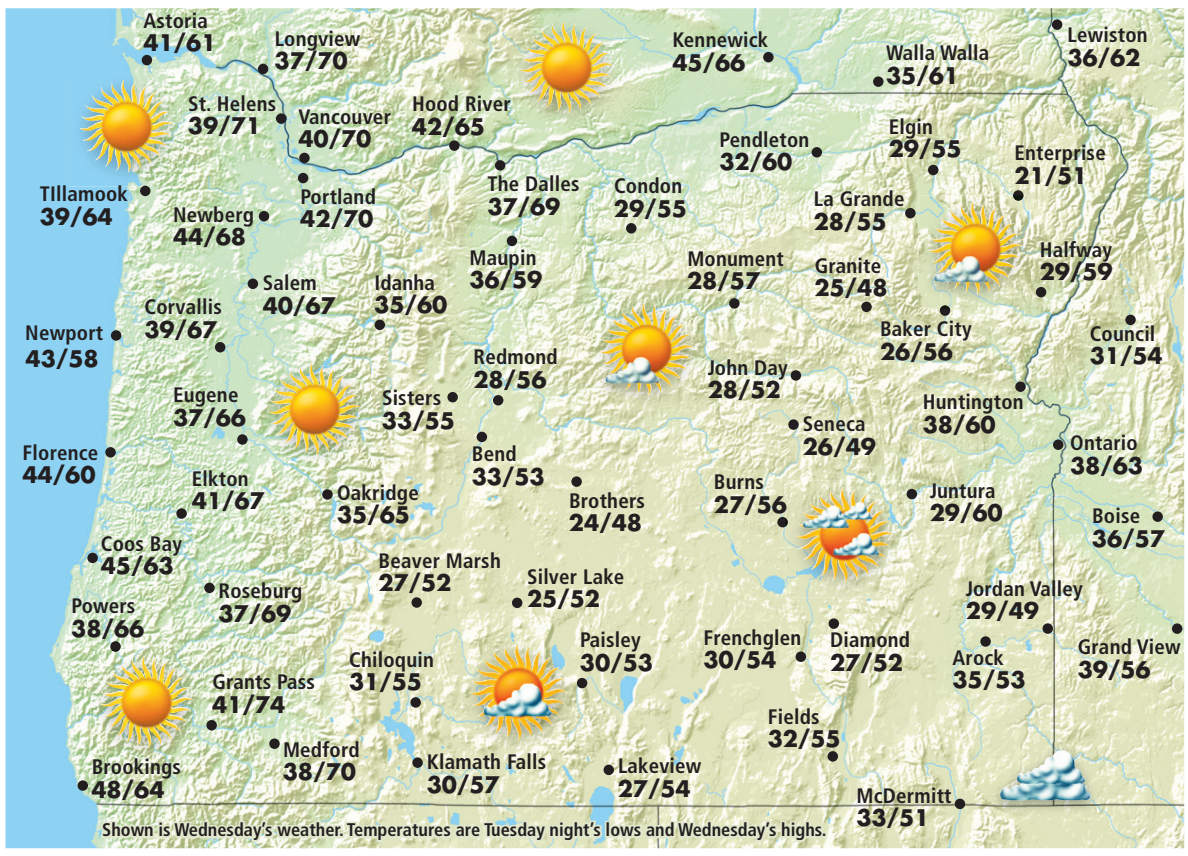
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	6:11 a.m.	6:09 a.m.
Sunset	7:36 p.m.	7:37 p.m.
Moonrise	7:08 a.m.	7:31 a.m.
Moonset	9:26 p.m.	10:29 p.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Apr 19	Apr 26	May 3	May 11

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. Hi/Lo/W	THU. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	61/39/pc	64/44/s
Bend	53/29/s	58/32/pc
Boise	57/38/pc	60/37/c
Brookings	64/45/s	61/45/s
Burns	56/25/pc	58/26/pc
Coos Bay	63/38/s	61/40/s
Corvallis	67/39/s	72/39/pc
Council	54/26/pc	55/31/c
Elgin	55/26/s	58/27/c
Eugene	66/38/s	71/37/s
Hermiston	65/41/pc	68/35/pc
Hood River	65/42/s	67/41/pc
Imnaha	56/29/s	62/31/c
John Day	52/26/pc	60/31/c
Joseph	50/24/pc	52/28/c
Kennewick	66/49/pc	69/40/pc
Klamath Falls	57/24/s	61/27/pc
Lakeview	54/21/pc	59/24/pc
Lewiston	62/39/pc	64/38/pc
Longview	70/38/pc	73/39/pc
Meacham	55/25/s	58/26/pc
Medford	70/37/s	74/40/s
Newport	58/41/s	60/41/s
Olympia	67/37/s	72/39/s
Ontario	63/36/pc	64/36/c
Pasco	67/45/pc	70/39/pc
Pendleton	60/33/pc	62/35/pc
Portland	70/42/s	73/46/pc
Powers	66/37/s	71/42/pc
Redmond	56/26/s	62/29/pc
Roseburg	69/38/s	75/40/s
Salem	67/39/s	71/40/pc
Spokane	58/38/pc	62/40/pc
The Dalles	69/42/s	70/40/pc
Ukiah	48/25/pc	54/28/pc
Walla Walla	61/36/pc	63/39/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 WEDNESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES
Partly sunny; cold
30 19

MT. EMILY REC.
Partly sunny
41 27

EAGLE CAP WILD.
Inc. clouds
36 17

WALLOWA LAKE
Cool with some sun
50 24

THIEF VALLEY RES.
Windy
56 27

PHILLIPS LAKE
Partly sunny; cool
51 26

BROWNLEE RES.
Cool with sunshine
54 29

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Partly sunny
47 23

MCKAY RESERVOIR
Partly sunny
57 34

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Breezy in the a.m.
55 27

SHOP & SAVE

Casual Sofa with Accent Pillows only $749

Lay-Z-Boy Recliner $499

Dresser, Mirror, Queen Bed

3 Pc. Bedroom only $999

• Free Delivery
• In-Store Credit
• 70 Store Buying Power
• Decorating Assistance

GLOBE furniture

HOURS:Mon. - Fri. 9:30 am-6:30 pm
Sat. 9:30 am-5:30 pm Sun. 12 noon-4 pm
(541) 963-4144 • 888-449-2704

1520 ADAMS AVENUE
La GRANDE, OREGON 97850