

# Couple wrestles with communication breakdowns



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

ception is spot-on. Sometimes, I suspect she's unwilling to accept any answer that does not match her own thinking. She comes from a family where correcting each other, even over the smallest thing, is common. She's an educator, so in some ways, it's part of her job.

My wife seems unable to use alternative phrasing that is less likely to trigger a defensive response. When we have conflict over this, it seems I am always the one who has to give ground. When I try to explain my feelings, it only makes things worse. When I choose to be more assertive, it results in more escalation. I am blessed with a spouse who is

independent, strong-minded and outspoken. How can I develop a thicker skin so I won't feel like I am second-guessed at every turn? When should I speak up? — **Misunderstood in Texas**

**Dear Misunderstood:** NOW would be a good time to speak up. When you do, tell your wife — the educator — that you feel second-guessed at every turn, and it's time to enlist the help of a licensed marriage and family therapist so you two can improve your communication skills. If she's willing, it could be helpful for your marriage. If she isn't, then go without her to help you figure out whether you really are "too sensitive."

**Dear Abby:** My best friend, whom I've known most of my life, has a 7-year-old grandson. The boy, "Cody," is spoiled, rude and makes obnoxious comments to adults. They'll make plans to visit us on a weekend evening when my wife and I want to chill out. While they are here, Cody gets loaded up on sugar, snoops through rooms and picks up breakable objects while watching us to see our reaction. He also does calisthenics and runs around while he's here. He makes snotty comments to us that my friend encourages and thinks are funny. As much as I love my friend, how do I tell him that his grandson is no longer welcome?

— **In a Conundrum**

**Dear in a Conundrum:** Has it occurred to you that Cody may have problems more serious than a sugar buzz? The behavior you describe can be symptoms of ADHD and/or learning disabilities. If Cody hasn't been evaluated by a medical professional, he should be. If you truly love this friend, suggest it and tell him why. If he ends your relationship because of it, you will no longer be subjected to Cody's unfortunate behavior. On the other hand, if my concern is on target, you could change that boy's life for the better, because he doesn't act out only at your house.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Maine's 'Lobster Lady' still going strong

The Associated Press

ROCKLAND, Maine — When Virginia Oliver started trapping lobster off Maine's rocky coast, World War II was more than a decade in the future, the electronic traffic signal was a recent invention and few women were harvesting lobsters.

Nearly a century later, at age 101, she's still doing it. The oldest lobster fisher in the state and possibly the oldest one in the world, Oliver still faithfully tends to her traps off Rockland, Maine, with her 78-year-old son Max.

Oliver started trapping lobsters at age 8, and these days she catches them using a boat that once belonged to her late husband and bears her own name, the "Virginia." She said she has no intention to stop, but she is concerned about the health of Maine's lobster population, which she said is subject to heavy fishing pressure these days.

"I've done it all my life, so I might as well keep doing it," Oliver said.

The lobster industry has changed over the course of Oliver's many decades on the water, and lobsters have grown from a working class food to a delicacy. The lobsters fetched 28 cents a pound on the docks when she first starting trapping them; now, it's 15 times that. Wire traps have replaced her beloved old wooden ones, which these days are used as kitsch in seafood restaurants.



Virginia Oliver, age 101, works as a sternman, measuring and banding lobsters on her son Max Oliver's boat, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, off Rockland, Maine. The state's oldest lobster harvester has been doing it since before the onset of the Great Depression.

Other aspects, though, are remarkably similar. She's still loading pogeys — lobster-speak for menhaden, a small fish — into traps to lure the crustaceans in. And she's still getting up long before dawn to get on the boat and do it.

She was destined for this life, in some ways. Her father was a lobster dealer, starting around the turn of

the century, and instilled a love of the business in Oliver, who would join him on trips.

Wayne Gray, a family friend who lives nearby, said Oliver had a brief scare a couple of years ago when a crab snapped her finger and she had to get seven stitches. She never even considered hanging up her lobster traps, though.

"The doctor admonished

her, said 'Why are you out there lobstering?'" Gray said. "She said, 'Because I want to.'"

After all these years, Oliver still gets excited about a lobster dinner of her own and typically fixes one for herself about once a week. And she has no plans to quit lobstering any time soon.

"I like doing it, I like being along the water," she

said. "And so I'm going to keep on doing it just as long as I can."

### White catfish catch shatters state, and maybe, world record

COVENTRY, Conn. — A white catfish caught in Connecticut last month has smashed a state record and could also be a world record for the species — though

the evidence has been eaten.

Ben Tomkunas, 25, caught the 21.3-pound fish late at night in Coventry on Aug. 21. It was longer than 3 feet.

Connecticut Fish and Wildlife confirmed in a Facebook post that the catch was a white catfish and that it easily broke the previous state record for the species of 12.7 pounds.

"We were just sitting back and drinking a couple of beers and next thing you know, my reel just starts screaming like I had a 30-pound striper on there," Tomkunas, of Coventry, told the Hartford Courant.

Tomkunas' friend, Chris Braga, had a digital scale and took a photo of the fish coming in at the record-breaking weight.

The International Game Fish Association has recorded the world record for a white catfish catch to be 19.3 pounds for a fish caught in 2005 in California.

White catfish are one of several species of catfish in Connecticut, and officials said they scrutinized this catch to confirm it was not a channel catfish, which are generally larger. Other species of catfish, like blue catfish or catfish found in Asia, can dwarf the white catfish.

Tomkunas said he intends to submit a claim to the association to secure the new world record. But he also told the newspaper that he gave the fish to his grandfather the next morning.

"It kind of got eaten," he said.

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# weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Overcast, showers around	Cloudy, showers; cool	Cool with lots of sun	Sunny	Pleasant with some sun	
Baker City	39	56 32	63 30	68 37	72 36
Comfort Index™	4	0	9	9	10
La Grande	44	56 42	62 37	68 45	71 43
Comfort Index™	0	0	9	9	10
Enterprise	40	50 39	59 36	69 46	67 42
Comfort Index™	3	0	5	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 Thursday	66°	68°	73°
Low Thursday	32°	36°	33°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.24	0.17	0.04
Normal month to date	0.24	0.32	0.50
Year to date	3.35	6.71	15.83
Normal year to date	6.66	11.65	16.41

### THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 109°	Ocotillo Wells, Calif.
Low: 26° <td></td> <td>Angel Fire, N.M.</td>		Angel Fire, N.M.
Wettest: 2.78"		Jacksonville, Fla.
OREGON	High: 84°	Medford
Low: 27°		Redmond
Wettest: Trace		Seaside

### WEATHER HISTORY

On Sept. 18, 1984, the temperature soared past 100 degrees in Sacramento, Calif., for the 38th time that summer. One year later, Blythe and Palm Springs had midday temperatures in the 60s with rain.

### SUN & MOON

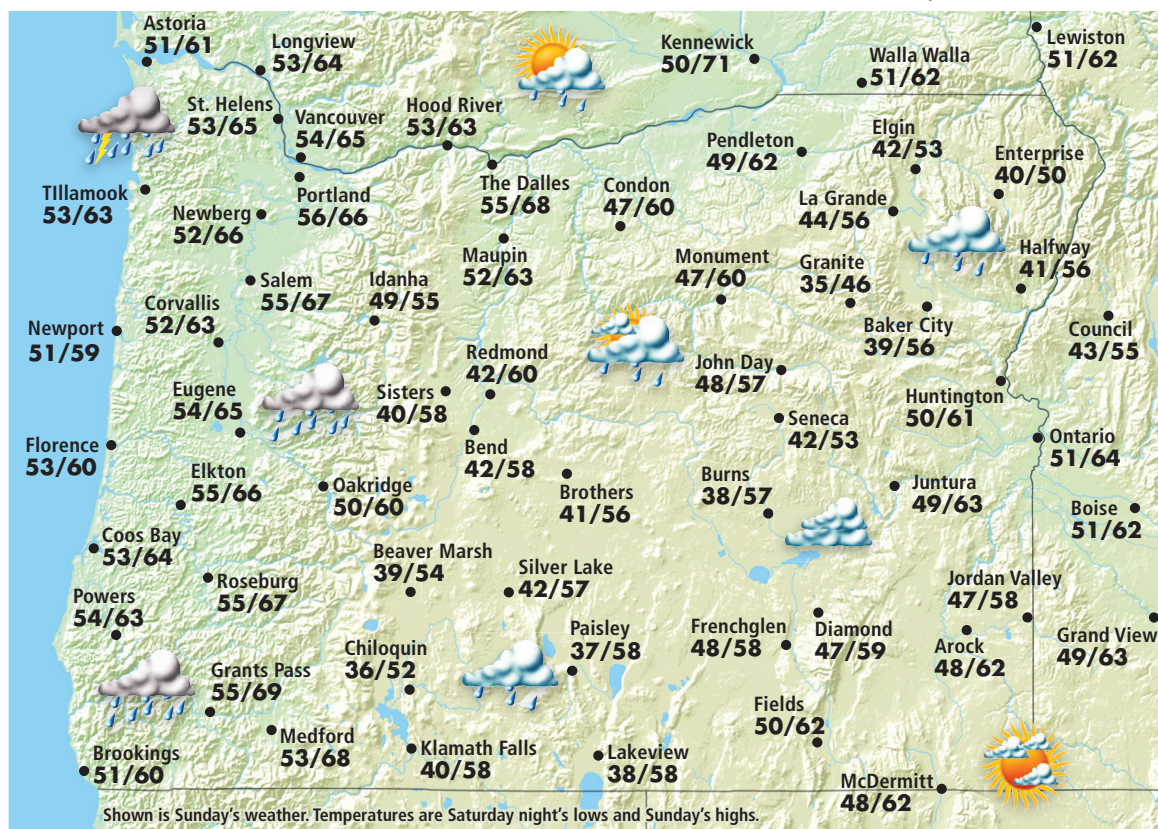
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:35 a.m.	6:36 a.m.
Sunset	6:57 p.m.	6:55 p.m.
Moonset	6:30 p.m.	6:54 p.m.
Moonrise	3:38 a.m.	4:50 a.m.

### MOON PHASES



## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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### REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	61/50/t	67/49/pc	Lewiston	62/50/sh	69/47/pc
Bend	58/34/c	64/39/s	Longview	64/52/t	69/47/pc
Boise	62/43/sh	65/45/s	Meacham	55/42/sh	60/33/pc
Brookings	60/50/sh	72/52/s	Medford	68/46/sh	77/48/s
Burns	57/28/sh	62/31/s	Newport	59/47/t	62/49/pc
Coos Bay	64/49/sh	70/53/s	Olympia	63/48/t	67/45/pc
Corvallis	63/47/t	72/46/s	Ontario	64/43/sh	66/38/s
Council	55/38/sh	63/36/sh	Pasco	69/46/c	71/43/s
Elgin	53/42/sh	62/37/pc	Pendleton	62/47/sh	65/45/s
Eugene	65/48/t	72/46/s	Portland	66/54/t	69/52/pc
Hermiston	69/52/c	70/45/s	Powers	63/48/sh	74/50/s
Hood River	63/41/sh	72/50/s	Redmond	60/36/c	65/35/s
Imnaha	56/45/sh	65/40/pc	Roseburg	67/50/sh	73/49/s
John Day	57/39/sh	64/40/s	Salem	67/51/t	70/51/s
Joseph	51/38/sh	58/35/s	Spokane	60/42/c	62/44/pc
Kennewick	71/48/c	70/44/s	The Dalles	68/51/c	73/50/s
Klamath Falls	58/29/c	70/35/s	Ukiah	52/32/sh	60/33/s
Lakeview	58/29/sh	67/35/s	Walla Walla	62/50/sh	66/49/s

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

### RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Snow showers	31	26
PHILLIPS LAKE	Showers; colder	48	31
MT. EMILY REC.	Cold with showers	44	36
BROWNLEE RES.	Cloudy, showers	59	41
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A few showers	40	24
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Rainy times	48	30
WALLOWA LAKE	Cloudy, showers	51	38
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Showers around	61	44
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Cloudy, showers	56	32
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Cloudy, showers	56	42