

Prison sentence complicates longtime friendship



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I have a former high school classmate who, over the years, I've gotten pretty close to. He has been there for me when I was at my lowest, and I have been there for him as well. He lives several hours away, but we talked almost daily in addition to being on social media.

A few months ago I stopped hearing from him, and his social media profile went dark. I had a bad feeling, so I Googled him and was shocked to see he had been arrested. While it wasn't a vio-

lent crime, it was horrible just the same. He has called me several times from prison, declaring his innocence — always requesting money. Abby, I live paycheck to paycheck. Even if I had extra money, I wouldn't feel comfortable giving it to him.

I feel hurt and used. Part of me says I need to end the friendship; the other part says he needs friends right now and it's not my place to judge him. I have refused to accept his last few calls because I really don't know what to do. Your thoughts are appreciated. — **Blindsided in Pennsylvania**

Dear Blindsided: This person hasn't used you — yet. The next time he reaches out, accept the

call. When you do, make clear that you can offer moral support, but you cannot give him money because you live paycheck to paycheck. You may not hear from him after that. But if he continues to ask, take a giant step backward and recognize this friendship has run its course.

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been together for three years. He recently went back to his home state 1,000 miles away for what I thought would be a two-day trip to grab some things from his late mother's estate. He has been unemployed for most of this past year due to the pandemic, so I'm somewhat conflicted about something he told me when I called to ask when he was coming

home. He said he found a job and decided he wants to stay there and work for some months to save up enough money to pay off the bulk of our debt.

He did not consult me before making this decision. He told me he has worked out a COVID-safe housing arrangement with his sister and his aunt. The type of work he will be doing there is something he could do here, where our home is. I don't want to discourage him, but it baffles me that he would take a job 1,000 miles away. What if something were to happen to me or our animals? When I told him I didn't agree with his decision, he told me I should be happy he's no longer unemployed. How should

I handle this? — **Far away in Missouri**

Dear Far Away: Your husband shouldn't have taken a job 1,000 miles away without first talking with you. That said, what's done is done, and you need to let this play out. There's nothing to stop you from visiting. Fortunately, you and the animals are all doing well. If circumstances change, he can always quit the job and come back.

When the time comes, welcome your debt-free husband home. There will be plenty of time for the two of you to hash out in person what caused him to make such a disruptive decision if there were similar jobs available in your own community.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Idled Thai taxis go green with mini-gardens on car roofs

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Taxi fleets in Thailand are giving new meaning to the term "rooftop garden," as they utilize the roofs of cabs idled by the coronavirus crisis to serve as small vegetable plots.

Workers from two taxi cooperatives assembled the miniature gardens last week using black plastic garbage bags stretched across bamboo frames. On top, they added soil in which a variety of crops, including tomatoes, cucumbers and string beans, were planted.

The result looks more like an eye-grabbing art installation than a car park, and that's partly the point: to draw attention to the plight of taxi drivers and operators who have been badly hit by coronavirus lockdown measures.

The Ratchapruk and Bovorn Taxi cooperatives now have just 500 cars left plying Bangkok's streets, with 2,500 sitting idle at a number of city sites, according to 54-year-old executive Thapakorn Assawalertkul.

With the capital's streets deathly quiet until recently,



Sakchai Lalit/The Associated Press

Miniature gardens are planted on the rooftops of unused taxis parked in Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 16, 2021. Taxi fleets in Thailand are giving new meaning to the term "rooftop garden," as they utilize the roofs of cabs idled by the coronavirus crisis to serve as small vegetable plots and raise awareness about the plight of out of work drivers.

there's been too much competition for too few fares, resulting in a fall in drivers' incomes. Many now can't afford the daily payments on the vehicles, even after the charge was halved to \$9.09, Thapakorn said. So they have

walked away, leaving the cars in long, silent rows.

Some drivers surrendered their cars and returned to their homes in rural areas when the pandemic first hit last year because they were so scared, he said. More gave up and returned their cars during the second wave.

"Some left their cars at places like gas stations and called us to pick the cars up," he recalled.

With new surges of the virus this year, the cooperatives were "completely knocked out," as thousands of cars were given up by their drivers, he said.

Thailand's new infections have ranged just under 15,000 in recent days after peaking above 23,400 in mid-August. The government hopes the country is easing out of this wave, which has been the deadliest so far, accounting for 97% of Thailand's total cases and more than 99% of its deaths. In total, Thailand has confirmed 1.4 million cases and over 14,000 deaths.

The situation has left the taxi companies in financial peril, struggling to repay loans on the purchase of their fleets.

Ratchapruk and Bovorn cooperatives owe around \$60.8 million, Thapakorn said. The government has so far not offered any direct financial support.

"If we don't have help soon, we will be in real trouble," he told The Associated Press on Thursday, Sept. 16.

The taxi-top gardens don't offer an alternative revenue stream. The cooperatives staff, who were asked to take salary cuts, are now taking turns tending the newly-made gardens.

"The vegetable garden is both an act of protest and a way to feed my staff during this tough time," said Thapakorn. "Thailand went through political turmoil for many years, and a great flood in 2011, but business was never this terrible."

Boston's famous Skinny House sells for a nice fat price: \$1.2 million

BOSTON — Boston's famous Skinny House has sold for a nice fat price.

The home in the city's North End hit the market in August for

\$1.2 million, and the deal was closed Thursday, Sept. 16, for \$1.25 million, according to Zillow.

The home "received multiple offers and went under agreement for over list price in less than one week," real estate agency CL Properties posted on Facebook.

The four-story home built in 1862, according to a plaque on the facade, is about 1,165 square feet — even though it is about 10 feet wide at its widest point and narrows in the back to about 9.25 feet.

It has two bedrooms and one bathroom and includes a private deck with a view of Boston Harbor. The home does not have a front door. Instead, residents enter through a side door.

It was last sold in 2017 for \$900,000.

It is also known as the Spite House, according to the plaque. According to local lore, two brothers inherited some land. When one of them joined the Army, the other built a large house that took up most of the land. When the soldier brother returned, he built the Skinny House to block his brother's view and sunlight.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Mainly clear	More clouds than sun	Sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and warm
Baker City	35	75 38	74 36	79 39	82 40
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	8
La Grande	46	74 43	73 40	79 45	83 48
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	8
Enterprise	49	72 43	72 46	77 51	82 47
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	8	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 Sunday	58°	59°	60°
Low Sunday	33°	43°	44°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.01	0.11	0.39
Month to date	0.43	0.43	0.43
Normal month to date	0.29	0.39	0.59
Year to date	3.54	6.97	16.22
Normal year to date	6.71	11.72	16.50

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 106°	Zapata, Texas
Low: 26°	Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 4.87"	Fayetteville, Tenn.
OREGON	
High: 72°	Ontario
Low: 33°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 1.49"	Florence

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	10.7
Evapotranspiration	0.14

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

Reservoir	Capacity
Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	12% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	11% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	32% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	0% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Stream	Flow
Grande Ronde at Troy	496 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	52 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	49 cfs
Minam River at Minam	91 cfs
Powder River near Richland	3 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

Hurricane Hugo intensified on Sept. 21, 1989, as it moved toward Charleston, S.C. Hugo made landfall just prior to midnight on Sept. 22 on Sullivan's Island, north of Charleston, with winds of 130-150 mph.

SUN & MOON

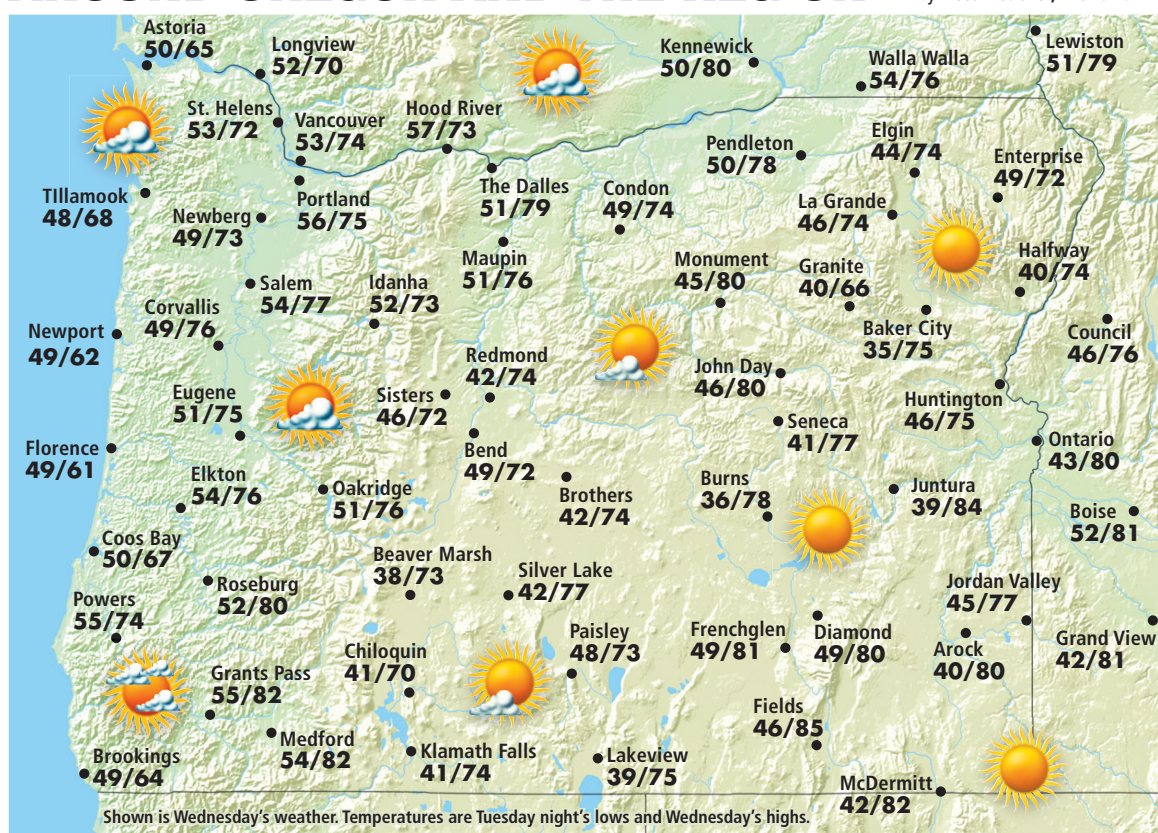
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	6:38 a.m.	6:39 a.m.
Sunset	6:52 p.m.	6:50 p.m.
Moonrise	7:34 p.m.	7:54 p.m.
Moonset	7:10 a.m.	8:16 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Phase	Date
Last	Sep 28
New	Oct 6
First	Oct 12
Full	Oct 20

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. Hi/Lo/W	THU. Hi/Lo/W	City	WED. Hi/Lo/W	THU. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	65/49/sh	68/50/s	Lewiston	79/53/pc	77/52/s
Bend	72/40/pc	73/44/s	Longview	70/50/sh	72/50/s
Boise	81/49/pc	79/50/s	Meacham	72/41/c	73/40/s
Brookings	64/53/pc	76/56/s	Medford	82/51/pc	86/53/s
Burns	78/36/pc	78/36/s	Newport	62/48/pc	64/49/s
Coos Bay	67/51/pc	71/56/s	Olympia	70/47/r	70/47/s
Corvallis	76/50/pc	77/49/s	Ontario	80/50/c	81/44/s
Council	76/44/pc	79/44/s	Pasco	81/49/pc	78/46/s
Elgin	74/41/pc	73/42/s	Pendleton	78/50/pc	74/49/s
Eugene	75/50/pc	76/48/s	Portland	75/54/sh	76/54/pc
Hermiston	80/51/s	78/48/s	Powers	74/51/pc	81/54/s
Hood River	73/50/pc	79/49/s	Redmond	74/38/pc	76/42/s
Imnaha	80/46/pc	76/46/s	Roseburg	80/52/pc	80/51/s
John Day	80/43/pc	77/46/s	Salem	77/52/c	76/53/s
Joseph	72/44/c	71/46/s	Spokane	71/46/pc	71/48/s
Kennewick	80/55/s	80/47/s	The Dalles	79/53/pc	81/55/s
Klamath Falls	74/37/pc	79/41/s	Ukiah	73/37/pc	71/37/s
Lakeview	75/38/pc	77/37/s	Walla Walla	76/53/pc	74/54/s

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

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Clouds and sun	49	31
PHILLIPS LAKE	Partly sunny; nice	68	34
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly cloudy	60	40
BROWNLEE RES.	Some sun; pleasant	79	48
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Mostly cloudy	57	33
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Variable clouds	68	35
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly cloudy	72	44
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Partly sunny	77	47
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Nice with some sun	75	38
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Mostly cloudy	74	43

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