

Wife gets no support in dealing with MIL



DEAR ABBY ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice regarding my mother-in-law. She has hated me since the first time she met me because I'm not from the country but from "the city." I have given her gifts for birthdays and holidays and invited her on day trips with us, but she always refuses.

She also makes up lies about me. She claims I have STDs, spend all her son's money, etc. She even spread a rumor that I wouldn't allow her at our wedding. She lives 46 miles away

and, in the five years we have been married, has never once visited her son. I take him to visit her because he can't get a driver's license because of medical issues. Our child and I aren't even allowed in her home. We have to sit in the car. She acts like our child doesn't exist, but she has pictures of her other two grandchildren on Facebook and drives to see them almost weekly. My husband sees nothing wrong with her behavior and says he "won't take sides." I don't know what to do. — PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PEEVED: Please accept my sympathy for your situation. While your husband refuses to recognize there is anything wrong with his mother's behavior,

it is off the charts. I hope you realize that most men stand up for their wives and children when they are mistreated.

Because you can't change your husband or his witch of a mother, and you made no mention of leaving the marriage, you will simply have to adjust to it. Start by planning an activity you and your child can enjoy while your husband is visiting his mom, rather than sitting for hours in the car. Even better, arrange "other" transportation for your husband.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 24-year-old woman who has been in a relationship with a man for seven years. "Ken" is 27 years older than I am. (I pursued him.) I love him, but I have always been

slightly confused about my relationship with him, and he knows this. Lately, I have been feeling very guilty. My heart knows that my love for Ken isn't enough for what he truly deserves.

He's a good, honest man, and I enjoy our relationship. We get along great, have a lot in common and make a great team. I am comfortable with us and our life. But recently I have realized that I want to be on my own, alone, and not in a relationship. I feel a strong desire to focus on me and only me, so I can grow into the person I envision myself being. Any advice besides the obvious — my leaving the relationship? — WANTING MORE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WANTING: You became involved with Ken while you were still very young. It appears you never gave yourself time to fully develop as an individual. You state that you are still "in a relationship" rather than a marriage, which may be a blessing considering your ambivalence.

Many women would be glad to live their life in a relationship that has all the positive qualities that yours has with Ken. I am sure you both will discover this when you move on. However, since you asked my advice, talk this through with a licensed relationship counselor before making any final decision.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Study nixes Mars life in meteorite found in Antarctica

By MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A 4 billion-year-old meteorite from Mars that caused a splash here on Earth decades ago contains no evidence of ancient, primitive Martian life after all, scientists reported Thursday, Jan. 13.

In 1996, a NASA-led team announced that organic compounds in the rock appeared to have been left by living creatures. Other scientists were skeptical and researchers chipped away at that premise over the decades, most recently by a team led by the Carnegie Institution for Science's Andrew Steele.

Tiny samples from the meteorite show the carbon-rich compounds are actually the result of water — most likely salty, or briny, water — flowing over the rock for a prolonged period, Steele said. The findings appear in the journal Science.

During Mars' wet and early past, at least two impacts occurred near the rock, heating the planet's surrounding surface, before a third impact bounced it off the red planet and into space millions of years ago. The 4-pound rock was found in Antarctica in 1984.

Groundwater moving through the cracks in the rock, while it was still on Mars, formed the tiny globs of carbon that are present, according to the researchers. The same thing can happen on Earth and



The meteorite labeled ALH84001 is held in the hand of a scientist at a Johnson Space Center lab in Houston, Aug. 7, 1996. Scientists say they've confirmed the meteorite from Mars contains no evidence of ancient Martian life.

could help explain the presence of methane in Mars' atmosphere, they said.

But two scientists who took part in the original study took issue with these latest findings, calling them "disappointing." In a shared email, they said they stand by their 1996 observations. "While the data pre-

sented incrementally adds to our knowledge of (the meteorite), the interpretation is hardly novel, nor is it supported by the research," wrote Kathie Thomas-Keptra and Simon Clemett, astromaterial researchers at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"Unsupported speculation does nothing to resolve the conundrum surrounding the origin of organic matter" in the meteorite, they added.

According to Steele, advances in technology made his team's new findings possible. He commended the

measurements by the original researchers and noted that their life-claiming hypothesis "was a reasonable interpretation" at the time. He said he and his team — which includes NASA, German and British scientists — took care to present their results "for what they are,

which is a very exciting discovery about Mars and not a study to disprove" the original premise.

This finding "is huge for our understanding of how life started on this planet and helps refine the techniques we need to find life elsewhere on Mars, or Enceladus and Europa," Steele said in an email, referring to Saturn and Jupiter's moons with sub-surface oceans.

The only way to prove whether Mars ever had or still has microbial life, according to Steele, is to bring samples to Earth for analysis. NASA's Perseverance Mars rover already has collected six samples for return to Earth in a decade or so; three dozen samples are desired.

Millions of years after drifting through space, the meteorite landed on an icefield in Antarctica thousands of years ago. The small gray-green fragment got its name — Allan Hills 84001 — from the hills where it was found.

Just this week, a piece of this meteorite was used in a first-of-its-kind experiment aboard the International Space Station. A mini scanning electron microscope examined the sample; Thomas-Keptra operated it remotely from Houston. Researchers hope to use the microscope to analyze geologic samples in space — on the moon one day, for example — and debris that could ruin station equipment or endanger astronauts.

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weather

TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy	A snow shower in the a.m.	Low clouds
Baker City 20 Comfort Index™ 1	33 20 1	35 22 1	37 27 2	38 27 3
La Grande 27 Comfort Index™ 1	39 27 2	39 29 3	40 36 2	41 34 3
Enterprise 23 Comfort Index™ 4	39 27 4	43 31 5	43 33 6	37 36 4

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	35°	43°	43°	
Low Thursday	19°	30°	33°	
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Thursday	Trace	0.01	0.00
Month to date	0.27	0.83	2.78	
Normal month to date	0.31	0.76	1.46	
Year to date	0.27	0.83	2.78	
Normal year to date	0.31	0.76	1.46	

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 82° Del Rio, Texas
Low: -17° Boulder, Wyo.
Wettest: 0.81" Astoria, Ore.
OREGON
High: 56° Medford
Low: 21° Burns
Wettest: 0.80" Astoria

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	S at 6 to 12 mph	
Hours of sunshine	2.4	
Evapotranspiration	0.04	

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	1% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	24% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	18% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	25% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	18% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	25% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1360 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	15 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	295 cfs
Minam River at Minam	148 cfs
Powder River near Richland	53 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 15, 1780, ice in the New York Harbor was thick enough to allow the transport of heavy cannons. While river ice can stop boat traffic, it can also create possibilities.

SUN & MOON

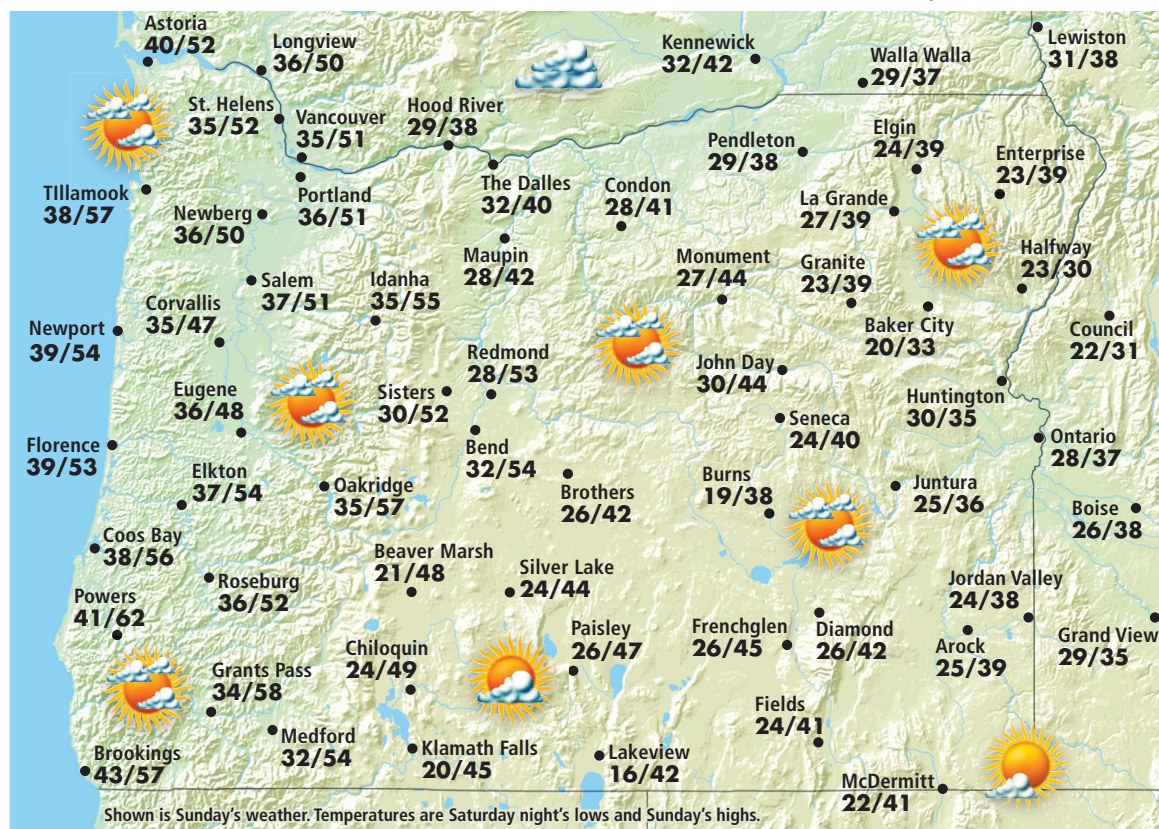
SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	7:28 a.m.
Sunset	4:36 p.m.
Moonrise	2:26 p.m.
Moonset	6:05 a.m.

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	52/42/c	52/44/c	Lewiston	38/34/pc	41/36/c
Bend	54/29/pc	56/35/c	Longview	50/36/pc	50/40/c
Boise	38/24/pc	38/25/pc	Meacham	38/24/c	38/28/c
Brookings	57/44/pc	54/45/s	Medford	54/35/pc	55/35/pc
Burns	38/19/c	40/22/c	Newport	54/39/pc	50/43/c
Coos Bay	56/39/pc	55/43/c	Olympia	48/38/c	52/43/c
Corvallis	47/35/pc	50/40/c	Ontario	37/29/c	37/29/c
Council	31/24/c	32/23/c	Pasco	40/29/c	43/33/c
Elgin	39/23/c	38/28/c	Pendleton	38/30/c	46/36/c
Eugene	48/37/pc	52/42/c	Portland	51/36/pc	51/40/c
Hermiston	42/29/c	45/32/c	Powers	62/41/c	62/46/pc
Hood River	38/31/pc	48/40/c	Redmond	53/28/pc	55/34/c
Imnaha	44/34/c	45/32/c	Roseburg	52/37/c	57/42/pc
John Day	44/34/c	44/36/c	Salem	51/36/pc	51/40/c
Joseph	41/30/c	45/34/c	Spokane	36/29/c	39/30/c
Kennewick	42/31/c	43/34/c	The Dalles	40/33/c	44/38/c
Klamath Falls	45/23/s	46/26/s	Ukiah	43/27/pc	47/29/c
Lakeview	42/17/s	43/21/s	Walla Walla	37/31/c	43/36/c

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	Mostly cloudy	33 24	PHILLIPS LAKE	Partly sunny	38 23
MT. EMILY REC.	Mainly cloudy	36 29	BROWNLEE RES.	Cloudy	38 28
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Mostly cloudy	35 21	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Mostly cloudy	38 25
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly cloudy	41 30	MCKAY RESERVOIR	Mainly cloudy	42 33
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Low clouds	33 20	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Mostly cloudy	39 27

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