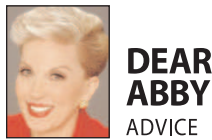


Queer couple plan life together on their terms



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 30-something bisexual man who is in a relationship with a bisexual woman the same age. We both lived different lives and dated a variety of people before we met, but now I am pretty certain she is The One. The issue arises when it comes to how others, particularly my parents and their friends, perceive us.

To us, we are two queer people who have identified as some form of queer or bisexual since we were teenagers.

We have repeatedly faced backlash from conservative family members and family friends about those we are attracted to. One of my mother's best friends is extremely homophobic. She has, at various holiday parties my parents have hosted, loudly voiced her homophobic views, including how proud she was to vote against same-sex marriage.

How can I kindly explain to my mother that my girlfriend and I are not straight, and it's wrong to attach the straight label to us when we don't identify that way? Also, I want to say that I don't feel comfortable around her friend. A lot of what she talks about involves denigrating the sexuality of folks I have deep affection for.

My mother is extremely defensive about her friend. She didn't take it kindly when I told her I deserve an apology for having to sit through this woman's homophobic diatribes given that I am LGBTQ myself. We would like to be married in the next couple of years and make it a homophobia-free wedding. Can you help? — **UN-STRAIGHT IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR UN-STRAIGHT: The way to explain to your mother that you and your soon-to-be fiancée are not straight would be to tell her that in plain English. If you want to ensure that you and the woman you love have a homophobia-free wedding, plan it yourselves and control the guest list.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married

to "Jeff" for nearly 50 years. He suddenly learned through DNA that he has a 52-year-old son. The son has visited him, and they have talked on the phone. The guy was conceived in the summer of 1970. I started seeing my husband in September of that year.

Jeff wants this man to leave him alone, and I can't deal with it either. We have three grown children, two of whom have become friends with this guy. There's no denying him. He looks more like Jeff than our son does. Evidently, the mother (who is deceased) never told him who his dad was. Are we wrong to feel this way? — **DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH IT**

DEAR DON'T: What does this man want from your husband? If it's in-

formation, it should be shared. However, if what he's seeking is the father he never had and a sense of belonging in your family, and you don't have it in your hearts to give it to him, then your feelings are your feelings. You have a right to them. I would gently remind you, however, that our society has changed a great deal over the last half-century. While the kind of news you received used to be shocking or embarrassing, people today are far less judgmental and more welcoming than they used to be.

■ *Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Dogs gifted by Kim Jong Un at center of South Korean row

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea — A pair of dogs gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018 are now mired in a South Korean political row, with the country's former president blaming his conservative successor for a lack of financial support as he gave the animals up.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal who left office in May, received the two white "Pungsan" hunting dogs — a breed known to be indigenous to North Korea — from Kim following their peace summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in September 2018.

The dogs are officially considered state property, but Moon took the pair and one of their seven offspring home after he left office. The move was made possible by a change of law in March that allowed presidential gifts to be managed outside of the Presidential Archives if they were animals or plants.

But Moon's office on Monday said he decided he could no longer raise the three dogs because the current government of President Yoon Suk Yeol was refusing to cover the costs for the animals' food and veterinary care. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said that the dogs were returned to the government on Tuesday and that the parent dogs originally sent from Kim were being examined at a veterinary hospital in the city of Daegu.

In its statement released on Facebook, Moon's office accused Yoon's office of "inexplicably" blocking the ministry's proposal to provide government funds for the animal's care.

The ministry confirmed it had drafted a budget plan



In this photo provided in October 2018 by South Korea Presidential Blue House, then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in greets a white Pungsan dog named Gomi in Seoul, South Korea.

to provide a monthly \$1,810 in subsidies, including \$360 for the dogs' food and veterinary care and \$1,450 for hiring workers to look after them. But the ministry said the plans were put on hold for months because of unspecified "opposing opinions" from within the ministry and the Ministry of Government Legislation.

"It seems that the presidential office, unlike the Presidential Archives and the Interior and Safety Ministry, has a negative view about entrusting the care of the Pungsan dogs to former President Moon," Moon's office said.

If that's the case, Yoon's government should be "cool" about ending that entrustment, Moon's office said.

"There would be disappointment and regrets as they were companion animals (Moon) grew attached to, but there would be no way to reject the termination of entrustment,"

it said.

Yoon's office shifted the blame to Moon, saying it never prevented him from keeping the animals and that the discussions about providing financial support were still ongoing.

"It was entirely the decision of former President Moon Jae-in to return the Pungsan dogs to the Presidential Archives" instead of waiting out a legislative amendment to secure the subsidies, Yoon's office said.

Moon and Yoon's spat over the dogs sparked criticism online, with users lamenting that the animals were being treated only as properties.

Staking his single presidential term on inter-Korean rapprochement, Moon met Kim three times in 2018 and lobbied hard to help set up Kim's meetings with former U.S. President Donald Trump. But the diplomacy never recovered from the collapse of the second Kim-Trump meeting in 2019

in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for dismantling an aging nuclear facility, which would have amounted to a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Kim has since vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent to counter "gangster-like" U.S. pressure and sped up his weapons development despite limited resources and pandemic-related difficulties. The North has fired dozens of missiles this year, using the distraction created by Russia's war on Ukraine to increase arms development and ramp up pressure on the United States and its regional allies.

Turtles in demand as pets, leading to a spike in poaching

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Swimming in two plastic bins inside a brightly lit and sterile quarantine room at a Rhode Is-

land zoo, 16 quarter-sized turtle hatchlings represent a growing worry for conservationist Lou Perrotti.

These eastern musk turtles, known for spending much of their lives in swamps and ponds and emitting a foul smell when threatened, were confiscated recently in a wildlife bust. And, though the reptiles are common, their illegal sale on the internet greatly concerns Perrotti, who directs conservation programs at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence.

"We are seeing an uptick in turtle poaching," he said. "It's getting ruthless where we are seeing thousands of turtles leaving the United States on an annual basis. ... Turtle populations cannot take that kind of a hit with that much removal coming out of the wild."

Wildlife trade experts believe that poaching — driven by growing demand for pets in the U.S., Asia and Europe — is contributing to the global decline of rare freshwater turtle and tortoise species. One study found over half of the 360 living turtle and tortoise species are at risk of extinction.

Such concerns have prompted a dozen proposals to increase protection for freshwater turtles at the 184-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) meeting in Panama Nov. 14 through Nov. 25.

Precise figures on the turtle trade, especially illegal trade, can be hard to find. Based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data, Tara Easter, a University of Michigan doctoral candidate who studies the trade, estimated the commercial export trade for mud turtles in the United States increased from 1,844 in 1999 to nearly 40,000

in 2017 and musk turtles from 8,254 in 1999 to more than 281,000 in 2016.

In their CITES proposal to ban or limit the commercial trade in more than 20 mud turtles species, the United States and several Latin American countries cited data from Mexico that found nearly 20,000 were confiscated, mostly at the Mexico City airport, from 2010 to 2022.

Among the world's most trafficked animals, freshwater turtles are targeted by criminal networks that connect with buyers on the internet then transport the reptiles to black markets in Hong Kong and other Asian cities. From there, they are sold as pets, to collectors and for commercial breeding, food and traditional medicine. In many countries, trade is poorly regulated or not regulated at all.

The lucrative business — some turtle species coveted for their colorful shells or strange appearance can fetch thousand of dollars in Asia — adds to threats turtles already face. Those include climate change, habitat destruction, road mortality and predators eating their eggs.

Poachers are particularly problematic, experts say, because they target rare species and adult breeding females. Many turtle species, which can live for several decades, don't reach reproductive maturity for a decade or more.

"The loss of large numbers of adults, especially females, can send turtles into a spiraling decline from which they cannot recover," said Dave Collins, director of North American turtle conservation for the Turtle Survival Alliance. "Turtles have extremely low reproduction levels, producing a few eggs every year."

weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Clear and cold	Sunshine, breezy and cold	Clearing and cold	Some brightening and cold	Cold with some sun
Baker City	11	33 20	34 16	37 17	37 12
La Grande	19	35 24	36 19	39 21	35 18
Enterprise	16	34 23	36 21	37 20	34 18

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.

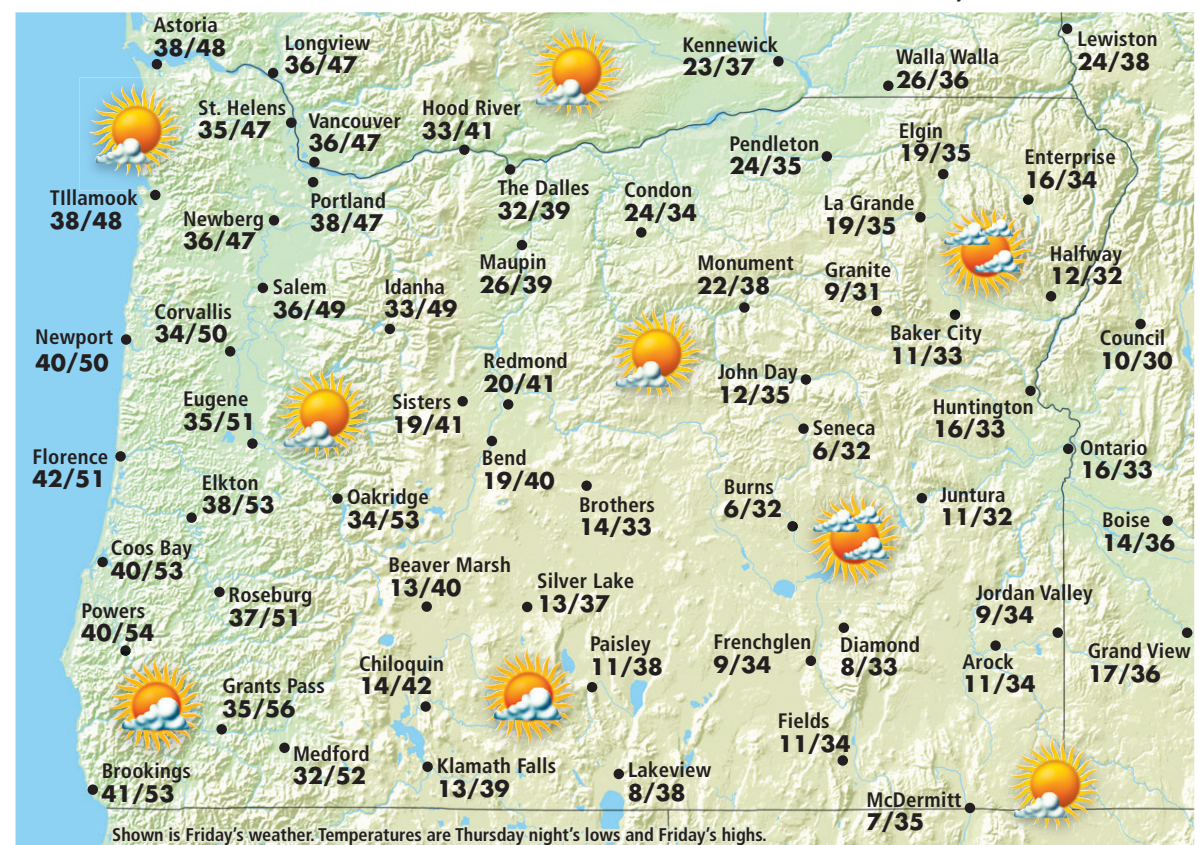
ALMANAC	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City La Grande Elgin
High Tuesday	42° 45° 47°
Low Tuesday	22° 28° 26°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	
Tuesday	0.00 0.00 0.02
Month to date	0.55 2.74 5.13
Normal month to date	0.19 0.50 0.67
Year to date	6.26 13.67 25.52
Normal year to date	7.67 14.08 19.70

TUESDAY EXTREMES	
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 91°	McAllen, Texas
Low: -10°	Cut Bank, Mont.
Wettest: 1.84"	Auburn, Calif.
OREGON	
High: 54°	Salem
Low: 20°	Lakeview
Wettest: 0.07"	Klamath Falls

WEATHER HISTORY	
A powerful storm produced a state record low barometer reading of 28.54 inches in Spencer, Iowa, on Nov. 10, 1998. Albert Lea, Minn., had a record low reading of 28.43 inches.	

SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	6:44 a.m.
Sunset	4:28 p.m.
Moonrise	5:43 p.m.
Moonset	9:16 a.m.
MOON PHASES	
Last	Nov 16
New	Nov 23
First	Nov 30
Full	Dec 7

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY	
City	FRI. SAT.	City	FRI. SAT.
Astoria	48/39/r 50/36/pc	Anthony Lakes	25 12
Bend	40/21/pc 34/18/sn	Phillips Lake	31 16
Boise	36/20/s 36/20/pc	Brownlee Res.	38 22
Brookings	53/43/r 51/41/sh	Emigrant St. Park	33 20
Burns	32/16/pc 34/10/sn	Mckay Reservoir	36 23
Coos Bay	53/44/r 52/38/c	Red Bridge St. Park	35 24
Corvallis	50/39/r 50/32/c		
Council	30/16/s 34/17/pc		
Elgin	35/25/s 37/24/pc		
Eugene	51/41/r 49/32/c		
Hermiston	38/26/pc 41/23/c		
Hood River	41/33/pc 44/31/pc		
Imnaha	41/28/s 43/30/pc		
John Day	35/20/pc 36/18/pc		
Joseph	34/22/s 36/20/pc		
Kennewick	37/27/pc 42/24/pc		
Klamath Falls	39/24/c 40/17/pc		
Lakeview	38/19/pc 36/17/sn		
Lewiston	38/27/s 41/29/pc		
Longview	47/33/c 48/34/pc		
Medford	52/39/r 50/36/c		
Newport	50/43/sh 48/39/c		
Olympia	46/28/c 46/31/pc		
Ontario	33/23/s 37/20/pc		
Pasco	37/26/pc 42/24/pc		
Pendleton	35/25/pc 39/24/c		
Portland	47/36/c 48/33/pc		
Powers	54/43/sh 53/38/c		
Redmond	41/23/pc 35/18/sn		
Roseburg	51/41/r 51/38/c		
Salem	49/38/r 48/33/pc		
Spokane	34/21/pc 35/20/s		
The Dalles	39/33/pc 44/29/pc		
Ukiah	36/20/pc 35/20/c		
Walla Walla	36/26/pc 38/27/pc		