

Daughter tired of indulging mom's proselytizing friend

DEAR ABBY: There's this woman I've known since I was a child. She's a Jehovah's Witness I'll call Beatrice. She comes by my house every so often to share pamphlets and talk about her religion. She is a casual friend of my mother's (who I live with), so I feel I have to let her inside when she's at the door. If it were anyone else, I'd say a polite "No, thank you, goodbye," and shut the door. But because it's Beatrice, I'm roped into listening to her spiel.

More often than not, Mom's not even home when Beatrice comes over with her pamphlets because they work similar hours. And each time, I find myself trapped into listening to her jabber away while I politely smile and nod.

Not only am I non-religious, but I am a member of the LGBTQ community, and I know for a fact that Beatrice shunned a family member after he came out as gay.

I don't want to keep pretending I'm interested in listening to her script, or even talking to her in general, but I also don't want to ruin my mother's friendship with her by offending her by being honest.

Is there a polite way to tell Beatrice that, with all due respect, I don't want to hear about her pamphlets, and she should come by to discuss them only when my mom's home? Or must I just continue to smile and nod politely like I always do?

— NOT INTERESTED IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: No rule of etiquette demands that you listen to Beatrice's religious diatribes. All you need to say to her is, "My mother isn't home, and I'm not interested in taking your pamphlets or hearing you preach. Because you're a friend of Mom's, come back when Mom is home, and be sure to call first."

DEAR ABBY: I am really upset about something my best friend did involving a cruise that's planned for next February. Because of financial setbacks, we can no longer afford the trip. She went ahead and paid for our cruise. I was so upset I called the travel agent and tried to cancel the trip but was informed it was nonrefundable. So now we are locked into a cruise that's still going to cost

us \$1,500 or more in other expenses while we are on the cruise.

I like to pay my own way and have never asked anyone for help or money. She said it was "a gift, not a loan" and I was being ungrateful, so I finally accepted the "gift." Now I'm going to have this hanging over my head. It's putting us in more financial trouble, so we are trying to get a loan to cover the extra expenses. I don't think I can enjoy the trip now.

Am I ungrateful? She's been my best friend for more than 40 years and I don't want this to affect our friendship. What should I do at this point?

— EXPENSIVE "GIFT" IN THE WEST

DEAR EXPENSIVE "GIFT": Your generous friend acted on impulse, without considering the fact that even with her paying your fare, the cruise would still cost you money. Forgive her for her mistake, take the trip and do your best to enjoy it so you don't ruin the trip for her.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a long-distance relationship. I live in Kansas; he's in Michigan. Because we are 720 miles apart, phone calls, text messages and Skype are vital to the health of our relationship. I make it a priority to text or call "Good morning" or "Goodnight." Unlike me, sometimes he's consistent and sometimes not, especially on weekends. He says he falls asleep, but it continues to happen, and I'm getting tired and frustrated about not being a priority.

I have been as patient and nice as I can be, as well as continuing to tell him how much I love him and want our relationship to work. I would love to hear your advice.

— FAITHFUL BUT FRUSTRATED GIRLFRIEND

DEAR GIRLFRIEND: I know you love this man, but take a step back. You may be smothering him. Stop doing all the work in maintaining the romance and give him some space. If you do, he may realize he needs to step up and devote more energy to your relationship. Communication has to be voluntary, not mandatory. If you continue to pursue him the way you have been, you won't draw him closer; you will drive him further away.

Intensifying Hurricane Florence could strike US Southeast

By Russ Bynum

Associated Press

Hurricane Florence is rapidly intensifying and could strike a direct and dangerous blow anywhere from the Carolinas to the Mid-Atlantic region later this week, possibly as a fearsome category 4, forecasters said. The first impacts were already being seen Monday on a barrier island, as seawater flowed over a coastal road.

A hurricane hunter plane found Florence strengthening quickly, reaching top winds of 85 mph (140 kph) Sunday evening after crossing the 74 mph threshold from tropical storm to a hurricane earlier in the day.

Forecasters said Florence could become an extremely dangerous major hurricane sometime Monday and remain that way for days.

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Florence was centered about 625 miles (1,005 kilometers) southeast of Bermuda, moving west at 9 mph (15 kph). Its maximum sustained winds were at 105 mph (165 kph). Drawing energy from the warm water, it could have top sustained winds of 130 mph (209 kph) or more by Tuesday, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

Hurricane Isaac, much farther out to sea, has become the 5th named hurricane of the 2018 Atlantic season, the hurricane center added.

It's too early to know the exact path of Florence, but forecasters said it could blow ashore by Thursday in the Carolinas and southern Virginia, a stretch of the U.S. East Coast that experts have identified as the most vulnerable to rising sea levels due to climate change.

Up and down the densely populated coast, residents have been told to prepare, and not just for a possible direct blow. Florence could slow or stall on or near shore, scooping up massive amounts of seawater. Some forecasting models show it could unload a foot or two of rain in places, causing devastating inland flooding. Forecasters also warned of a rising threat of life-threatening storm surge, along with the damaging winds.

On North Carolina's Outer Banks, Dawn Farrow Taylor, 50, was gathering photos and important documents and filling prescriptions Monday before heading inland. She grew up on the shore, and says this will be

only the second time she's evacuated.

Since reliable record-keeping began more than 150 years ago, North Carolina has only been hit by one Category 4 hurricane: Hazel, with 130 mph winds in 1954.

"I don't think many of us have ever been through a Category 4. And out here we're so fragile. We're just a strip of land -- we're a barrier island. ...Already we're getting some overwash, the ocean is coming over 12," she said, referring to the islands' main road.

The governors of North and South Carolina and Virginia declared states of emergency far ahead of the approaching storm.

Navy ships off Virginia's coast were preparing to sail out of the path, a North Carolina university has already canceled classes and people have begun stocking up on plywood, bottled water and other supplies.

Red flags have already been flying on beaches, warning swimmers to stay out of the water as seas began kicking up. People rushed to get emergency kits ready, map out escape routes, fill sandbags and secure their homes.

"Pretend, assume, presume that a major hurricane is going to hit right smack dab in the middle of South Carolina and is going to go way inshore," South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said. The state's emergency management agency said it is "preparing for the possibility of a large-scale disaster."

In coastal Charleston, South Carolina, city officials offered sandbags to residents. Myrtle Beach Mayor Brenda Bethune urged people to secure their homes but said it was too early to know if evacuations will be ordered.

Myrtle Beach hardware stores and supermarkets were busy ringing up sales of bottled water, plywood and generators.

"Literally, they are filling buggies full of water, shopping carts full of water," Ryan Deek, grocery department manager at a Walmart, told The Sun News. "They're coming in and buying water and plates, and that's about all they're buying." North Carolina crews were getting bulldozers and chain saws ready.

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) inland, some residents picked up hurricane supplies during their normal weekend shopping,

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weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Mainly clear	Sunshine and some clouds	Clouds and sun	A blend of sun and clouds	Mostly sunny
Baker City	39	69 37	68 36	67 36	71 34
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	7	10
La Grande	45	67 41	66 39	65 37	70 38
Comfort Index™	10	8	8	8	10
Enterprise	40	64 39	64 40	63 37	69 40
Comfort Index™	10	9	9	7	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	84°	81°	83°
Low Sunday	41°	41°	39°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.02	0.00
Normal month to date	0.18	0.19	0.22
Year to date	4.75	10.50	20.95
Normal year to date	7.25	11.06	15.25

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	OREGON
High: 116°	High: 87°
Low: 20°	Low: 33°
Wettest: 5.92"	Wettest: 0.17"
Death Valley, Calif.	Rome
Bodie State Park, Calif.	Meacham
Hampton, Va.	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

North winds brought an early taste of autumn to the East Coast on Sept. 11, 1917. Temperatures dropped to as low as 25 degrees at Culvers Lake, N.J.

SUN & MOON

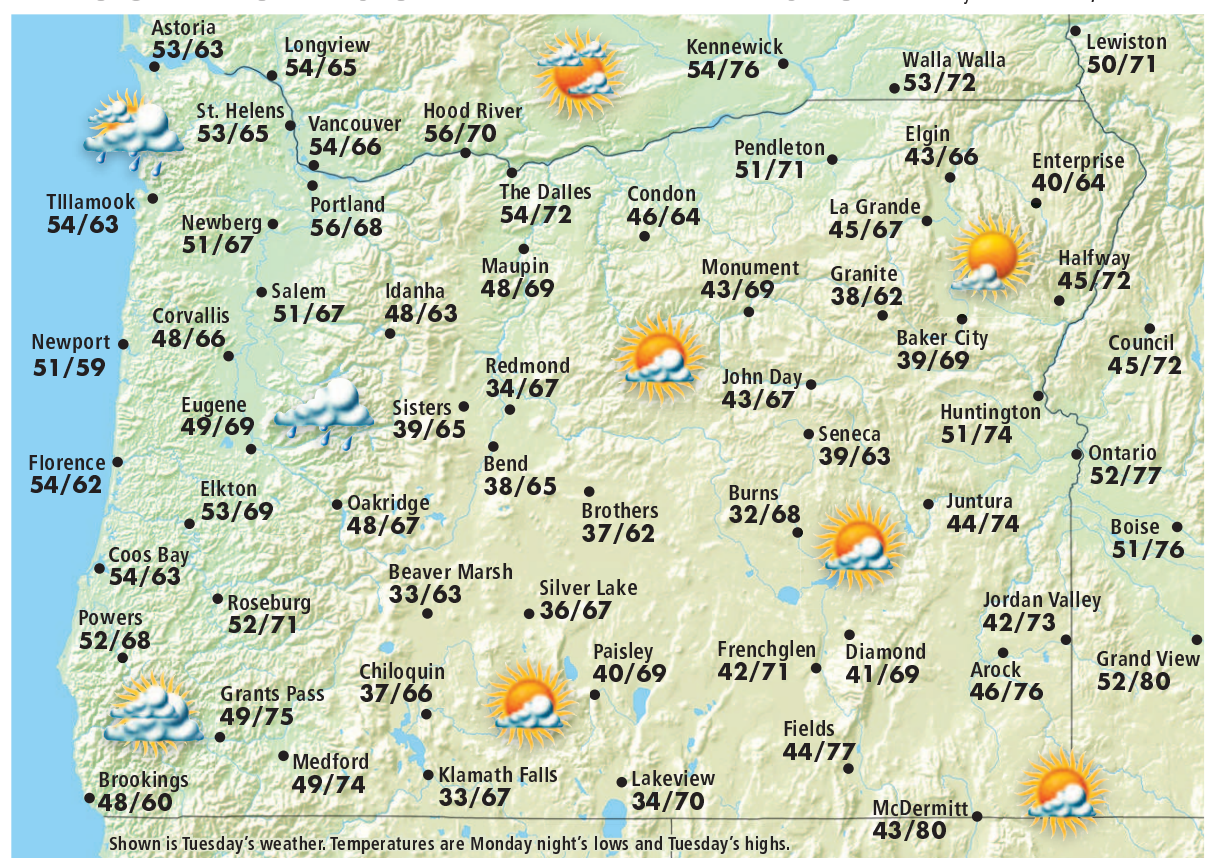
	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	6:25 a.m.	6:26 a.m.
Sunset	7:13 p.m.	7:11 p.m.
Moonrise	7:21 a.m.	8:35 a.m.
Moonset	8:09 p.m.	8:39 p.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Sep 16	Sep 24	Oct 2	Oct 8

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018



REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	63/52/sh	63/51/sh	Lewiston	71/48/pc	71/49/c
Bend	65/36/pc	63/37/pc	Longview	65/53/sh	64/51/sh
Boise	76/49/pc	73/49/pc	Meacham	63/39/pc	64/37/pc
Brookings	60/48/pc	59/48/pc	Medford	74/48/pc	71/47/pc
Burns	68/33/pc	67/33/pc	Newport	59/51/sh	59/50/sh
Coos Bay	63/54/pc	63/51/sh	Olympia	63/48/sh	65/44/c
Corvallis	66/51/sh	64/48/sh	Ontario	77/52/pc	74/46/s
Council	72/43/pc	69/45/pc	Pasco	75/47/s	74/44/s
Elgin	66/41/pc	66/41/pc	Pendleton	71/48/pc	70/48/pc
Eugene	69/52/sh	66/49/sh	Portland	68/55/sh	66/54/sh
Hermiston	75/51/s	73/52/s	Powers	68/51/pc	65/48/pc
Hood River	70/53/c	69/51/pc	Redmond	67/32/pc	65/36/pc
Imnaha	70/42/pc	69/46/pc	Roseburg	71/51/pc	70/49/sh
John Day	67/43/pc	65/43/pc	Salem	67/52/sh	65/50/sh
Joseph	65/39/pc	64/41/pc	Spokane	66/46/pc	64/45/pc
Kennewick	76/51/s	75/51/s	The Dalles	72/51/pc	70/49/pc
Klamath Falls	67/30/s	64/32/s	Ukiah	63/39/pc	63/38/pc
Lakeview	70/30/s	66/29/pc	Walla Walla	72/51/pc	71/51/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 TUESDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Mostly sunny; cool	50	29
PHILLIPS LAKE	Sun, some clouds	73	37
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly sunny	59	38
BROWNLEE RES.	Mostly sunny; nice	81	46
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Mostly sunny	62	31
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Mostly sunny	64	37
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly sunny; nice	73	40
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Nice with sunshine	74	50
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Mostly sunny	77	39
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Mostly sunny	73	45



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