

Wife resists giving support to man’s new career plan

DEAR ABBY: I am an older IT professional (58) who had a very successful career until a year ago. I was part of a major layoff at the company I worked at for many years. I have not been able to find a job in the IT field since.

Besides my skills and knowledge in IT, I'm an accomplished handyman with skills in most of the trades. The issue is, my wife is insistent that I get another job in IT — mostly for the benefits.

Older IT workers have a very hard time finding work in the field. I'd like to start a handyman company since I enjoy this kind of work. If I start a handyman business, my wife, for the first time, would have to go from being a part-time worker at her job to full time to provide us with benefits. This will cause a lot of strain on our marriage because she has made it clear she does not want to work full time.

I think she's being selfish. I have provided her with a very nice lifestyle for many years and feel it's time she step up and do her part. I'm not sure how to broach the subject without an argument ensuing. Help?

— SWITCHING GEARS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SWITCHING: Expect an argument and be prepared for it. You are not responsible for having been laid off. It seems there is plenty of ageism in your field, and it isn't surprising you can't find a comparable job in IT when the preference appears to be for hiring younger, cheaper workers.

Frankly, you are fortunate to have both an alternative and the initiative to start a handyman business. Good handymen are hard to find, and your wife should make the effort to support you in what could be a successful endeavor once it gets on its feet. That's what partners in life are supposed to do, isn't it?

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for a couple of years. He has three siblings, all in their 20s, none married.

Today I received a group email from his mom addressed to him, his father, his

grandmother, all three siblings and their boyfriends/girlfriends (including me) asking for Christmas wish lists. She wants to know what we would like for Christmas and would like all of us to “reply all” on the email so everyone else will have ideas for Christmas presents.

I don't know how to respond! I don't want to appear greedy, but I do like the idea that she wants to get us all presents that we will like. Can you give me any suggestions on the best way to respond?

— PERPLEXED IN ALABAMA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your boyfriend's mother is a generous — and sensible — woman. She is soliciting ideas because she doesn't want to waste her time or money buying something the recipient won't like. Answer her question. Tell her what you would like, as long as it isn't something that will break the bank. Your boyfriend can probably give you some hints about her budget. I suggest you talk to him about it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for seven years. Since our wedding, he has had increasing health problems.

He recently told me that he planned his funeral three months ago, without saying a word to me. I am very concerned that he seems more focused on death than on life. Am I wrong to be upset? He says I am.

— WIFE IN BURLINGTON, N.J.

DEAR WIFE: I don't blame you for being concerned because husbands and wives should be able to discuss important topics with each other, and this is one of them.

When your husband has his next medical appointment, go with him so you can speak with his physician. It's possible that because of his “increasing health problems” he has become depressed, and if that's the case, his doctor should be told.

It is always helpful for spouses to accompany each other to their medical appointments in case the patient forgets to ask a question or tell the doctor something he or she needs to know.

New study explores impacts of coastal erosion, increased storms

By Brenna Visser
Associated Press

Coastal erosion and more intense winter storms may require policymakers to take another look at how they plan for future development.

A new Oregon State University study, based in Tillamook County, examined how beach access and property would be impacted by sea level rise and coastal erosion if planning policies stayed the same.

Researchers then looked at the costs, impacts and implications if the region changed policies, such as providing incentives to move houses out of vulnerable areas or loosening regulation on breakwater infrastructure.

One approach may protect more homes from danger, but comes with a hefty price tag. Another may be the best at preventing erosion, but impacts beach access. The point of the study is not to tell lawmakers what to do, said Patrick Corcoran, a coastal hazards specialist with Oregon State University's Sea Grant program and co-author of the paper, but to give informed direction about the consequences of their choices.

“We can't control climate change, at least not directly,” Corcoran said. “The one thing we can control is management. We need to align our behavior with what we see happening.”

Roughly a quarter of Tillamook County's population lives within a half mile from the Pacific Ocean, with 40 percent of the coastline eroding at rates of more than 3 feet a year.

According to the study, coastal hazards are growing, and can be attributed to three main drivers: sea level rise, increases in wave heights from winter storms and the frequency of El Nino weather patterns.

Researchers designed five different policy scenarios to address what people in Tillamook County consider priorities: the ability to use the beach and property protection.

They predicted what would happen if policies stayed the same, as well as what would happen with certain changes, such as constructing new buildings on lots that allowed protective measures like riprap, removing buildings repetitively impacted by coastal hazards and having no development restrictions at all through 99 different climate scenarios over the course of 30 to 90 years.

Overall, the study shows that if policies in Tillamook County don't change, more than 2,000 buildings will remain in the hazard zone, and that damages associated with coastal flooding will cost more than 300 million after accounting for the money it would take to renourish the beach and create new environmental easements.

The “laissez-faire” approach, where restrictions about where to build and whether riprap is allowed are stripped, actually resulted in almost no buildings being impacted by erosion in comparison to the status quo. Predictions show there would be a spike in homeowners fortifying properties that they currently cannot

do under state law. Current planning policies would see about 20 buildings a year be affected by erosion by 2100.

But it, too, was costly, incurring about \$2.5 million a year regionally for costs associated with fortifying coastal properties. The policy also massively impacts beach accessibility by interfering with sand production, which would also increase total water levels and lead to more flooding hazards. Currently, about 80 percent of the coastline is walkable. In the worst climate scenario, that would drop to about 40 percent by 2100 under this approach.

Though the study doesn't offer a definitive solution, Corcoran said he hopes the information can be used to make long-term decisions.

“We're so used to shooting down ideas,” he said. “I find it useful for electeds and others to play through alternative policies through the end.”

While the study focused on challenges unique to Tillamook County, the broader lesson of considering development hazards is something that can be applied across the North Coast.

Studies like this could be a model for cities to rethink the development process in the tsunami inundation zone.

“(Planning is) project driven and opportunity driven,” Corcoran said. “There's no sense of altering development for hazards”

Such policies could force planners to “tick some kind of box” about whether vulnerable populations should be put in areas known to be historically inundated after a tsunami, Corcoran said.

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weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Partly cloudy	A little afternoon snow	Mostly cloudy	A little snow	Cloudy with a few showers
Baker City	20	36 29	40 24	34 21	37 18
Comfort Index™	1	0	3	0	0
La Grande	26	38 34	40 29	39 30	40 26
Comfort Index™	1	0	3	0	0
Enterprise	21	36 30	36 25	38 28	39 25
Comfort Index™	0	0	2	0	0

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	34°	38°	36°
Low Sunday	29°	29°	18°

PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	Trace	Trace
Month to date	Trace	Trace	0.26
Normal month to date	0.29	0.56	0.99
Year to date	5.24	13.57	26.73
Normal year to date	9.44	15.42	21.66

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY

Lowest relative humidity	65%
Afternoon wind	S at 10 to 20 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.1
Evapotranspiration	0.04

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)

Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	19% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	34% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	12% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	14% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	31% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	985 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	7 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	81 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	41 cfs

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 85°	Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -20°	Daniel, Wyo.
Wettest: 4.02"	Hatteras, N.C.

OREGON

High: 56°	Brookings
Low: 10°	Burns
Wettest: 1.33"	North Bend

WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 11, 1992, a powerful storm brought over 30 inches of snow to parts of central Pennsylvania. Wind gusts topped 85 mph in Wildwood, N.J., and hurricane-force wind gusts occurred in Central Park.

SUN & MOON

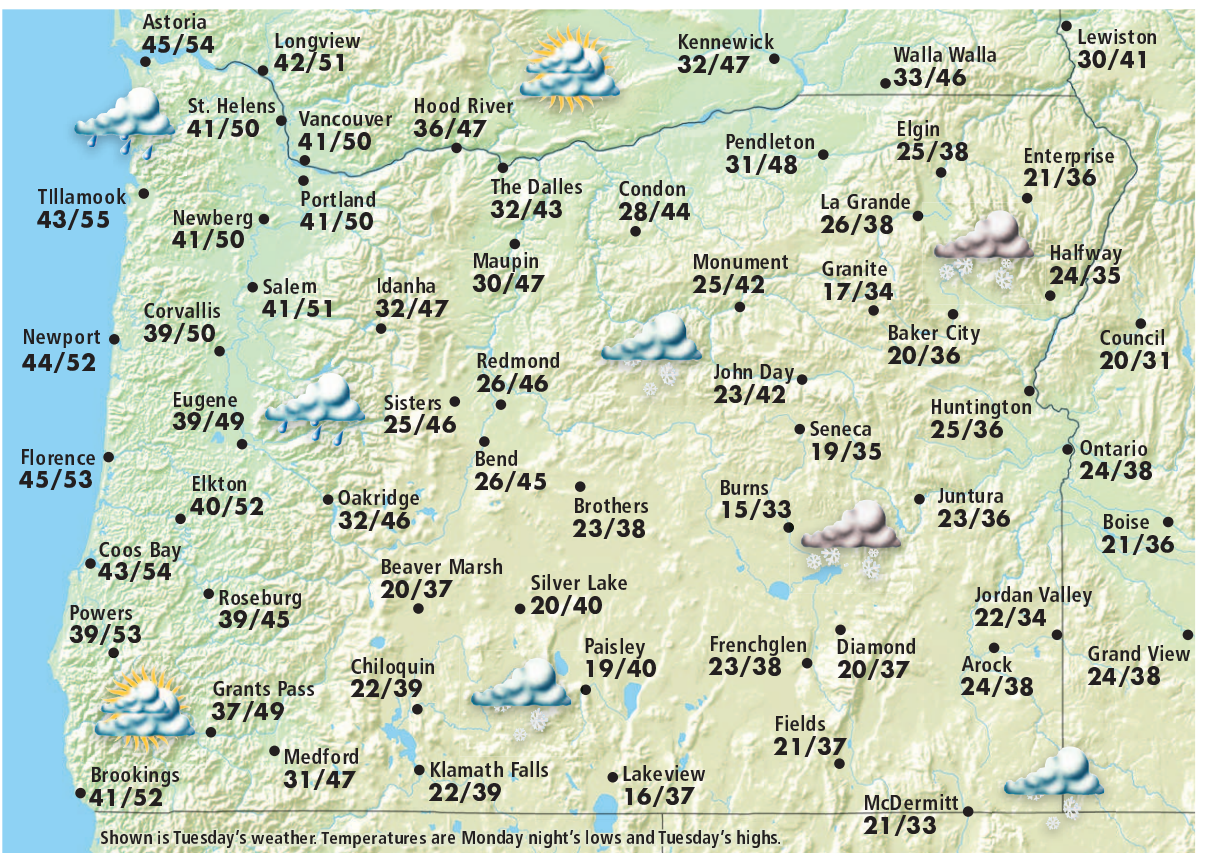
	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	7:21 a.m.	7:21 a.m.
Sunset	4:09 p.m.	4:09 p.m.
Moonrise	10:02 a.m.	10:41 a.m.
Moonset	7:22 p.m.	8:20 p.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29	Jan 5

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	54/43/r	52/43/r	Lewiston	41/38/sn	47/31/pc
Bend	45/28/i	42/30/c	Longview	51/41/r	49/43/r
Boise	36/31/s	40/20/c	Meacham	36/33/sn	38/27/sf
Brookings	52/43/r	56/42/c	Medford	47/34/r	49/30/c
Burns	33/23/c	36/16/c	Newport	52/43/r	53/44/c
Coos Bay	54/42/r	54/43/c	Olympia	50/38/r	48/40/r
Corvallis	50/39/r	50/38/c	Ontario	38/32/c	45/23/c
Council	31/27/sn	34/18/sn	Pasco	43/39/c	49/36/c
Elgin	38/34/sn	40/29/sf	Pendleton	48/39/r	47/36/pc
Eugene	49/40/r	50/40/c	Portland	50/43/r	50/44/c
Hermiston	47/40/c	52/36/pc	Powers	53/40/r	54/39/c
Hood River	47/43/r	49/37/c	Redmond	46/28/r	45/29/c
Imnaha	41/35/sn	41/29/sf	Roseburg	45/40/r	49/37/r
John Day	42/32/c	38/30/c	Salem	51/41/r	51/43/c
Joseph	35/29/sn	35/23/c	Spokane	37/32/sn	39/29/c
Kennewick	47/41/c	51/39/c	The Dalles	43/38/sn	49/35/c
Klamath Falls	39/28/c	40/21/c	Ukiah	39/30/sn	38/28/c
Lakeview	37/27/c	37/16/pc	Walla Walla	46/39/r	47/37/c

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

ANTHONY LAKES Morning snow, 1-2"	21 10	PHILLIPS LAKE Morning snow, 1-2"	36 17
MT. EMILY REC. A little a.m. snow	31 24	BROWNLEE RES. Snow showers	39 26
EAGLE CAP WILD. Morning snow, 1-2"	27 13	EMIGRANT ST. PARK A little a.m. snow	35 22
WALLOWA LAKE Morning snow, 1-2"	35 21	MCKAY RESERVOIR Rain/snow shower	44 32
THIEF VALLEY RES. Morning snow, 1-2"	37 20	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK A little a.m. snow	39 26

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