

Sparks fail to fly for mom dating her perfect match

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend who is in her mid-30s. She's a wonderful, divorced, hardworking Christian mother of four who has finally ventured back to the dating scene. She's currently seeing a guy who in all respects is perfect for her, she says. Unfortunately, when it comes to romance, for some reason she can't seem to get aroused, and it's now at a point where she avoids his kiss if possible.

She really likes him and would love for this to work and feels conflicted because she doesn't know how to "light her fire" and find him intimately attractive. She's afraid she'll eventually push him away even though she wants the exact opposite. Any advice I can pass along?

— NEEDING A FRIEND IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR NEEDING: Your friend needs to understand why she's having a problem "getting her fire lit." Could it be related to her divorce? Her feelings about premarital intimacy? Has she seen her doctor to rule out a physical cause? Or could it be that although he looks good on paper, there's simply no chemistry?

Because intimacy is an important part of marriage, she needs to be honest with herself about why she's reacting the way she is. If this isn't the only man this has happened with, and she can't find the answers within herself, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional may be in order.

DEAR ABBY: My husband invited his good friend (an artist) to stay with us for two nights because he is coming to our city to give a speech. He accepted.

We tried to contact him two weeks ago, one week ago, three days ago, yesterday and this morning to find out what time he'll arrive so we can plan our schedule and prepare the food. He still hasn't gotten back to us. I had planned to go to church and a concert afterward. My husband doesn't want me to leave.

I am very frustrated about the man's lack of consideration. My husband considers him a good friend, but after the way we are being treated, I'm not convinced.

— STILL WAITING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STILL WAITING: I don't blame you for being miffed. Good friends don't treat each

other so rudely. They answer their messages and show up when they're expected. Unless the man was in the hospital, solitary confinement or dead, there's no excuse for his poor manners. Because your husband considers him a good friend, he should have stayed home to welcome "the artist" and let you off the hook.

DEAR ABBY: My son and daughter-in-law are "horrified" that we refer to our 3-year-old grandson's penis using the correct terminology. Should we relent and refer to that part of his body as something else?

— UNSURE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNSURE: Not in my opinion. Children should be taught the correct terms for their body parts as soon as they are aware enough to identify — and pronounce — them. To do this will prevent confusion and possibly embarrassment later.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old grandmother, twice divorced. I have been living with a man I'll call "Mickey," and we're contemplating marriage.

My older sister met Mickey for the first time and insists that I abandon my marriage plans. She says that while she talked with him, she realized that he is controlling, possessive and angry. She's convinced that he will ruin my life.

I love my sister, and I'm not sure how to react to her phone calls and e-mails. I have not discussed this with Mickey because I don't want him thinking poorly of my sister. I know he has problems, anger issues being one of them. And perhaps she's right about his being controlling and possessive.

I'm not sure what to do here. Mickey wants to get married next month. I'm thinking we need to wait a while longer. We've been together only seven months.

— WENDY IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR WENDY: You have struck out twice at marriage. For your own sake, please do not marry again without at least a year of premarital counseling. The traits your sister spotted, and that you admit Mickey suffers from, are red flags that he could be an abuser. Your mental and physical health could be at risk, so do not allow yourself to be rushed into anything.

Will 2019 be the year Oregon gets a climate change bill to the finish line?

By Ted Sickinger

The Oregonian

If Oregon lawmakers are going to pass legislation to address climate change, 2019 could very well be their year.

Such legislation has been floating around the capitol in one form or another for a decade. But it remains deeply controversial because of its complexity, its potential cost to consumers and businesses, and ongoing questions over its basic efficacy.

Contrary to past efforts, however, most of the forces in Salem are now pulling in the same direction. Consider:

Gov. Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek are all committed to passing a climate bill. The Legislature created a Carbon Policy Office early this year and Brown has made climate change policy a centerpiece of her post-election agenda. Courtney and Kotek, meanwhile, took the unprecedented step of co-leading the Joint Interim Committee on Carbon Reduction.

While the legislation doesn't require a supermajority vote, Democrats' expanded majorities in both chambers could help proponents find enough votes to pass it. Several newly elected Democrats actively campaigned on climate change and endorsed the bill.

A statewide business group, Oregon Business for Climate, was formed late last year to back the legislation, and now counts 100 members, including prominent companies such as Nike and Adidas. Meanwhile the tradi-

tional business lobby, which has opposed past versions of the legislation, is in disarray and going into the 2019 session flat footed. Lawmakers have signaled their willingness to meet one of Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp's key demands on the bill, a move designed to win their support for the legislation and remove a powerful barrier.

Successive reports are painting an increasingly dire picture of the effects and pace of climate change, backing the case for immediate action. The most recent came in this week's biennial report to the Legislature by the state Global Warming Commission. It suggests that Oregon's emissions are on the rise again, and that the state is unlikely to meet its emission-reduction goals. Meanwhile, the effects of climate change are already being felt regionally and will intensify.

None of this is to say that passage of the Clean Energy Jobs bill is a lock. It is still a highly complex piece of legislation, one that is effectively a new tax on businesses and consumers and could easily get entangled in the end-of-session logjam with other revenue measures.

While backers claim their polling shows strong support of climate legislation, voters in Washington have twice rejected a carbon tax, most recently last month. Though the policy differs from the cap-and-trade system Oregon is considering, the outcome reflects deep-seated opposition in some corners of the business community and

the voting public.

For Brown, the climate change legislation could define both her legacy and her future. She admits as much: "This is absolutely a legacy issue," she said. "Future generations will judge us not on the fact of global climate change, but what we've done to tackle it."

For a governor who is staunchly pro-environment but regularly criticized for her failure to lead on big issues, enacting the nation's second economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions would be signature legislation — no matter what happens on the perennial question of taxes and education funding.

"People have been waiting for her to use her political capital to publicly lead the charge on a big issue, not just negotiate behind the scenes," said Jim Moore, a political scientist at Pacific University. "This is something you can nail to the wall and say, 'I did this, and the world is a better place for it.'"

Dave Robertson, PGE's vice president of public policy, says it's hard to overstate the importance of the governor's role. Her championing the work of the Carbon Policy Office, and coordinating with lawmakers to head off any problems is a prime example, he said.

"This is such a complicated and time-intensive legislative lift," he said. "If you don't have someone like the governor making it a priority, without that bully pulpit push, it's easy to say, 'That's too complicated. Let's do it later.'"

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weather

	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	Partly cloudy and breezy	Mostly cloudy and breezy	Times of clouds and sun	Times of clouds and sun	A little snow
Baker City	34	42 29	38 18	36 26	36 27
Comfort Index™	4	3	4	1	0
La Grande	38	45 28	37 23	36 30	38 33
Comfort Index™	2	2	3	2	0
Enterprise	33	45 25	34 19	33 26	37 30
Comfort Index™	3	3	3	3	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 Tuesday	48°	45°	43°
Low Tuesday	33°	36°	36°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.12	0.21	0.74
Month to date	0.39	0.57	2.14
Normal month to date	0.57	1.01	1.82
Year to date	5.63	14.14	28.61
Normal year to date	9.72	15.87	22.49

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 78° Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -6° Daniel, Wyo.
Wettest: 3.62" Stampede Pass, Wash.
OREGON
High: 59° Hermiston
Low: 26° Crater Lake
Wettest: 1.93" Florence

WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 20, 1836, in central Illinois, the temperature dropped from 40 degrees to zero between noon and 1 p.m. Arctic cold fronts killed many settlers heading westward through the Plains.

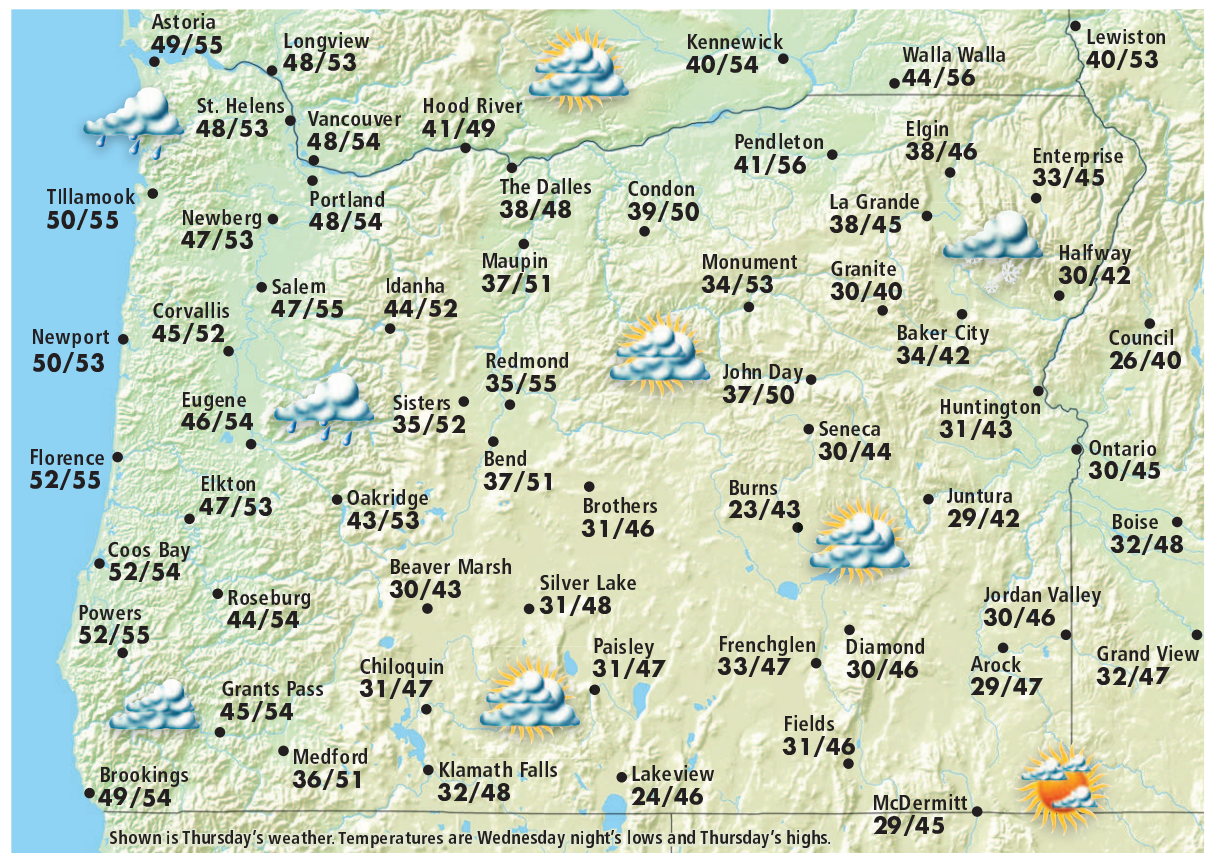
SUN & MOON

	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	7:28 a.m.
Sunset	4:11 p.m.	4:12 p.m.
Moonrise	2:22 p.m.	2:58 p.m.
Moonset	3:40 a.m.	4:52 a.m.

MOON PHASES	Full	Last	New	First
	Dec 22	Dec 29	Jan 5	Jan 13

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018



REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. HI/LO/W	FRI. HI/LO/W	City	THU. HI/LO/W	FRI. HI/LO/W
Astoria	55/39/r	49/37/c	Lewiston	53/42/c	46/31/pc
Bend	51/26/r	38/23/sf	Longview	53/36/r	45/36/sh
Boise	48/33/pc	42/24/c	Meacham	45/27/c	34/23/pc
Brookings	54/40/r	51/38/c	Medford	51/34/r	46/28/c
Burns	43/21/c	36/13/pc	Newport	53/40/r	47/38/c
Coos Bay	54/38/r	50/39/sh	Olympia	52/33/r	46/32/c
Corvallis	52/33/r	47/31/sh	Ontario	45/32/pc	45/26/c
Council	40/26/pc	33/15/pc	Pasco	54/37/c	48/28/c
Elgin	46/29/c	37/24/pc	Pendleton	56/35/c	43/31/pc
Eugene	54/34/r	46/32/sh	Portland	54/37/r	47/35/c
Hermiston	53/36/c	46/31/pc	Powers	55/38/r	49/36/c
Hood River	49/36/r	45/34/sh	Redmond	55/29/r	42/23/c
Imnaha	49/29/pc	38/22/pc	Roseburg	54/37/r	45/34/c
John Day	50/27/c	35/23/c	Salem	55/36/r	48/33/c
Joseph	45/24/c	32/17/pc	Spokane	46/31/c	37/25/pc
Kennewick	54/37/c	47/31/c	The Dalles	48/37/r	46/29/c
Klamath Falls	48/26/r	39/21/c	Ukiah	49/25/c	34/20/pc
Lakeview	46/24/c	37/14/sf	Walla Walla	56/38/c	46/33/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	A snow shower	28	22
PHILLIPS LAKE	A snow shower	38	29
MT. EMILY REC.	A snow shower	38	34
BROWNLEE RES.	Mainly cloudy	43	32
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A snow shower	29	22
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A snow shower	39	31
WALLOWA LAKE	A snow shower	41	33
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Mostly cloudy	52	43
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A snow shower	43	34
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	A snow shower	45	38

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