

Happy homebody would rather skip weeknight get-togethers

DEAR ABBY: I'm struggling with a situation with my friends and colleagues. I have a routine I stick to which keeps my priorities in check. I get done with work, go home, have dinner, work out and spend quality time with my puppy. Lately, people keep inviting me to weeknight happy hours and get-togethers, but more often than not, I don't want to go.

I feel conflicted because I feel obligated to go and be a "good friend," but if I do, I'm left feeling resentful because my routine has been interrupted. I'm also not one of those people who WANTS to be invited to everything and truly wouldn't be hurt to be excluded altogether. Please help.

— TIME FOR MYSELF IN THE EAST
DEAR TIME: Do not socially isolate yourself completely. Explain to your close friends and colleagues that you need your routine in order to function your best, which is why, although you would like to, you are unable to accept all the invitations you are being offered. Then pick and choose so you join them once or twice a month, and they won't think you don't like them — particularly your colleagues.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 35 years. My oldest daughter, Amanda (now 39), wanted to find her "roots." I gave her as much info as I could find out about her dad, and she contacted and kind of enveloped herself into his family. Not good enough of a family, I guess, because now she has taken a DNA test. Now I'm really angry.

Amanda sent a text from an unknown "sister" asking if I knew who the daddy was. Why does the daddy du jour matter that much? Amanda was raised by a strong, loving and responsible man — my husband. Are cheek swabs eliminating family?

— REAL FAMILY IN THE WEST
DEAR REAL FAMILY: On the contrary. They appear to be expanding "family" by leaps and bounds. Like many others, Amanda feels a need to know more about her background. You shouldn't feel angry about her curiosity because it's normal.

That said, knowing the identity of her birth father should in no way lessen the importance of your husband in her life, particularly if they have had a close relationship.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of years ago, I gave a friend a nice birthday gift that was for the whole family. It was a one-of-a-kind item I thought they would really enjoy. I had researched and read up on it and then had the piece custom designed. They said they loved the item when it arrived, but I have never seen them use it. When I ask where it is, they tell me it's still wrapped up in a box under the bed because they don't have room for it. I believe it, because their apartment is very crowded.

Would it be OK to ask if I could buy it back? I would like to have it since they are not using it. I am willing to pay whatever price they would feel comfortable with. Would this put them in an uncomfortable situation?

— NOT SURE IN NEW YORK
DEAR NOT SURE: Not knowing your friends, I can't predict what their reaction to your proposal would be. However, because the item is not being used, I don't think it would be out of line to ask the question. Go for it.

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law gave me a tablet that he was not using, as he had upgraded. He removed most of his information. When I went to set up my accounts, I noticed his list of apps and passwords was still present and saw four accounts to an adult dating site.

My daughter and SIL have been together / married for four years. The tablet is less than 2 years old. I don't know what to do: (1) act like I never saw it, (2) tell him what I found and hope for a good explanation, or (3) tell my daughter. This will destroy her. Please help!

— SIGN ME DEVASTATED
DEAR SIGN ME: Tell your son-in-law what you found and ask for an explanation. What he tells you will determine what steps you should take next.

Tropical storm's rain, surging seas strike Thai beaches

■ Rain, wind and surging seawater from a tropical storm buffeted coastal villages and world-famous tourist resorts on southern Thailand's east coast on Friday, knocking down trees and utility poles and flooding roads.

By Sumeth Panpetch
Associated Press
NAKHON SI THAMMARAT, Thailand

— One person was reported dead and another missing after a fishing boat with a crew of six capsized in high waves, but there were no reports of major damage by nightfall. It appeared that Tropical Storm Pabuk caused aggravation during the country's high tourist season but less damage than had been feared.

Airlines and boat operators suspended operations for safety reasons and tourists were forced to change travel plans.

Beaches were closed, but even with the bad weather approaching, tourists on the popular island of Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand continued to patronize bars and restaurants catering to them.

That was good fortune for the tourism industry, whose safety problems were highlighted last July when 47 Chinese tourists drowned after their boat sank in rough seas near the popular resort of Phuket.

Ahead of this week's storm, more than 6,100 people in four provinces were evacuated, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

The Meteorological Department said the storm had maximum sustained winds of 40 miles per hour

at late afternoon, down from 47 mph when it hit land shortly after noon.

It continued to warn of strong winds and waves 3-5 meters (10 to 16 feet) high in the Gulf of Thailand and 2-3 meters (6 to 10 feet) in the Andaman Sea. It advised all ships to stay ashore through Saturday and warned of possible storm surges on the Gulf coast.

"We can expect heavy rain and downpours, flooding and flash floods in the area throughout the night," department Director-General Phuwieng Prakham-mintara said.

Evacuation efforts were especially intense in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, about 480 miles south of Bangkok, where authorities sent trucks through flooded streets with downed power lines, urging people in danger zones to leave.

"You cannot stay here. It's too dangerous," they repeated from truck-mounted loudspeakers.

Koh Samui appeared to have been spared much of the brunt of the storm.

Rain there stopped by Friday evening, said Joe Kieta, and American visitor, "so it seems like the worst is past us."

Kieta, editor of California's Fresno Bee newspaper, said in an email that roads on the island had light debris, his hotel's beach area was closed and

guests were discouraged from going out.

Southern Thailand also has popular resort destinations on its west coast on the Andaman Sea, and they now await the storm.

The navy said Thailand's sole aircraft carrier, the HTMS Chakri Naruebet, was on standby at its base east of Bangkok, prepared to sail to help with relief efforts at a moment's notice.

PTT Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd. said it inspected its offshore gas platforms in the Gulf of Thailand and plans to resume production on Sunday. It said all staff were safe.

There had been fears that the storm would be the worst to hit Thailand since 1989, when Typhoon Gay left more than 400 people dead. A tropical storm in 1962 killed more than 900 people in the south.

Southern Vietnam also was expecting heavy rain and strong winds in the Mekong Delta, the country's major area for rice and aquaculture production.

According to Vietnamese state television VTV, authorities ordered people to take precautions and sent radio alerts to thousands of fishing boats to take shelter or return to shore. They had forbidden new boat departures in five southern coastal provinces since Tuesday.

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weather

TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Cloudy	A bit of snow and rain	Cloudy	Times of sun and clouds	Cloudy
Baker City 20 Comfort Index™ 3	36 33 0	40 29 0	40 32 3	41 28 2
La Grande 27 Comfort Index™ 3	39 37 0	44 37 2	45 37 3	44 35 3
Enterprise 20 Comfort Index™ 2	36 34 0	43 33 3	43 30 4	42 30 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 Sunday	42°	42°	42°
Low Sunday	29°	29°	33°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.02	0.03	0.05
Month to date	0.02	0.03	0.08
Normal month to date	0.18	0.34	0.63
Year to date	0.02	0.03	0.08
Normal year to date	0.18	0.34	0.63

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 83°	McAllen, Texas
Low: -15°	Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Wettest: 2.61"	Emigrant Gap, Calif.
OREGON	
High: 54°	Hermiston
Low: 20°	Burns
Wettest: 1.31"	Sexton Summit

WEATHER HISTORY

The temperature stayed below zero in New York City for an entire day only once--on Jan. 8, 1859. During the same cold snap, Toronto had its coldest January temperature ever with a low of 27 degrees below zero.

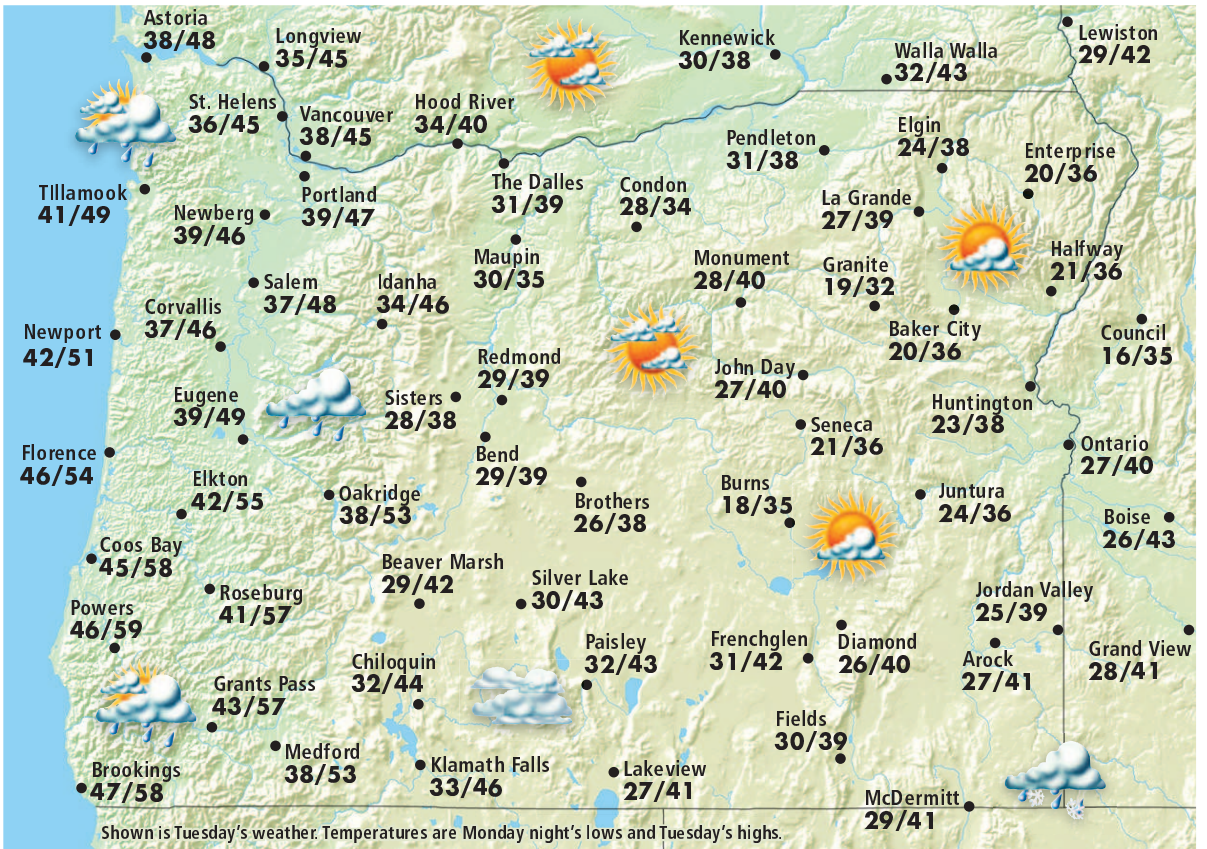
SUN & MOON

	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	7:31 a.m.	7:31 a.m.
Sunset	4:26 p.m.	4:27 p.m.
Moonrise	8:40 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
Moonset	6:10 p.m.	7:09 p.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
			
Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 4

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	48/44/r	53/46/r	Lewiston	42/37/c	49/39/c
Bend	39/35/c	49/35/c	Longview	45/41/r	51/48/r
Boise	43/35/c	49/36/c	Meacham	38/36/c	43/36/c
Brookings	58/50/r	55/47/r	Medford	53/40/r	52/39/r
Burns	35/28/c	42/24/c	Newport	51/47/r	54/48/r
Coos Bay	58/50/r	55/48/r	Olympia	43/37/r	50/45/r
Corvallis	46/40/r	52/42/r	Ontario	40/33/c	46/34/c
Council	35/30/c	40/34/c	Pasco	39/31/sh	43/36/c
Elgin	38/36/c	44/37/c	Pendleton	38/34/c	48/41/c
Eugene	49/43/r	54/43/r	Portland	47/41/r	52/47/r
Hermiston	38/33/c	43/37/sh	Powers	59/50/r	54/47/r
Hood River	40/36/c	42/40/r	Redmond	39/34/c	53/36/c
Idanha	45/40/c	48/38/c	Roseburg	57/46/r	55/43/r
John Day	40/39/r	47/35/c	Salem	48/41/r	54/45/r
Joseph	36/34/sh	42/33/c	Spokane	34/32/c	40/35/c
Kennewick	38/34/sh	42/38/c	The Dalles	39/32/c	42/37/sh
Klamath Falls	46/37/c	47/32/r	Ukiah	34/34/sn	44/33/c
Lakeview	41/33/c	42/30/c	Walla Walla	43/39/sh	52/44/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	PHILLIPS LAKE
Partly sunny	Some sunshine
15 8	31 18
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Partly sunny	Partly sunny
27 21	37 22
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Partly sunny	Some sunshine
21 12	32 19
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Partly sunny	Partly sunny
33 20	45 31
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Partial sunshine	Partial sunshine
36 20	38 27



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