

Sister suspects fiance caught flirting has much more to hide

DEAR ABBY: My youngest sister started dating a man and they quickly moved in together. Six months into their relationship she got pregnant and they got engaged. Their wedding is planned for this summer.

Recently she discovered he has been video-chatting with someone he met online. He admitted to flirting, apologized and promised that was the end of it. I have a strong suspicion that there have been other "situations" my sister is unaware of.

Should I express my concerns to her and suggest postponing the wedding? Or should I keep my gut feelings to myself? I'm afraid she will get married and then find out what's really going on.

— BIG SISTER IN MASSACHUSETTS
DEAR BIG SISTER: Be honest with your sister. Although I suspect that your gut feelings are accurate, whether she will believe it is debatable, but at least she will have been warned. If she does decide to stay with him, refrain from any "I told you so's." Recognize that whether she marries her fiance or not, she will forever be linked with him because of the baby.

DEAR ABBY: After my mom passed away, my dad lived alone for three years until his death. During those three years, Mom's family not once made contact with him or me. Dad lived in a very small town. When he would see Mom's sister and her husband out and about in restaurants and stores, they would ignore him.

After Dad's death, my aunt contacted me asking if she could have a rocking chair that belonged to my mother. I agreed they could have it. To my shock, when my uncle arrived to pick up the chair, he began asking me about my dad's belongings. He wanted to look through Dad's tools and such. After making no attempt to contact Dad while he was alive, now that he's gone, my uncle had the nerve to ask to look through Dad's things?! I politely shut him down.

Since then, my aunt has been bad-mouthing me all over town, telling everyone "I dropped them" and "don't want anything to do with them." I suppose that's true under the

circumstances, but what should I say to set the record straight without appearing as the bad guy?

— "ORPHAN" IN THE SOUTH
DEAR ORPHAN: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your parents, and the uncomfortable situation in which you now find yourself. Memorize the first paragraph of your letter to me and recite it verbatim when the subject of your relationship with your aunt and uncle comes up. Because it's a small town, the message will spread quickly, and you won't have to repeat it often.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I want to go to Europe this summer, but we don't want to take his mother along. We have taken her on two holidays over the last two years and didn't enjoy either one for various reasons. She now expects to go with us on our international vacations, and we don't know how to tell her we prefer to go alone. Please help.

— HOLIDAY FOR TWO
DEAR HOLIDAY: What your husband should say to his mother is, "Mom, my wife and I will be going to _____ for a few weeks in early August. We need an 'adventure' alone together, so we will not be asking you to join us." Period!

DEAR ABBY: Eighteen months ago, I discovered that "Steven," my husband of 27 years, had been secretly visiting "Blanca," the girl he wanted to marry 30 years ago. Since then, I have been talking to Blanca's husband, "Eric," and have fallen in love with him.

The affair has ended for Steven and Blanca, but Eric and I still talk several times a week.

Abby, should I stay with Steven? I'm tempted to leave him after what he has done.

— GETTING EVEN WITH STEVEN
DEAR GETTING EVEN: I don't blame you for wanting to get even, but if you're asking my permission, the answer is no. The fact is, neither you nor Eric is really available.

Before making any final decisions, try marriage counseling to see if you can rebuild a loving, trusting relationship with your spouse. That way, fewer people will be hurt.

Oregon reports boom in camping, longer camping season

Associated Press
PORTLAND — Oregon set a record for the number of campers at state parks last year, and the number of day-use visitors was the second-highest ever, according to a report by the state's Parks and Recreation Department.

The report said 2.9 million people camped at a state park in 2018 and 54 million people in total visited a park, the second-highest number ever after a blockbuster summer season in 2016 that attracted 54.5 million visitors, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Wednesday.

Coastal parks saw the biggest gain in campers. Fort Stevens, South Beach and Bullards Beach — all along the Pacific Ocean — together accounted for more than half of the growth in overnight visits. They collectively attracted 59,300 campers last year, the newspaper said.

The camping season is also spreading beyond the traditional busy summer months. Crowds have begun to come to camp in the spring and well into the fall, filling yurts and cabins on rainy days, and taking advantage of months with unseasonably warm weather.

"The camping season is stretching itself," state parks spokesman Chris Havel said. "The peak time is getting longer and longer."

Smaller state park campgrounds also saw big growth, from Viento in the



Cars and pedestrians navigate through the busy Tumalo Falls parking lot in Central Oregon. Courtesy Photo

Columbia River Gorge to Lake Owyhee in eastern Oregon. Tiny Jackson F. Kimball State Recreation Site in southern Oregon saw the highest percent increase, with an additional 557 campers that added up to a 64 percent increase.

Those increases at smaller campgrounds are exactly what the parks department is looking for. Last year, the department launched an initiative to decrease camping fees at less-popular state parks, hoping to spread out the growing crowds.

Havel said it seems to have worked, so in 2019 the department will implement a one-month trial of increased camping fees at a few of the more popular parks, which could offset the discounts if made permanent.

As more people move to Oregon, the agency is working hard to accommodate increased demand.

The department's budget is funded by fees it collects, as well as slices of state lottery earnings and RV registrations.

Ninety percent of state park sites are currently free of charge - but Havel told the newspaper that park officials aren't considering adding fees in those locations. Part of the ethos of Oregon state parks is ensuring that these natural public spaces are accessible for everyone.

"We like seeing a nice, broad equitable system like that, but how do you fund it?" Havel said. "I don't know. We haven't answered that question yet."

weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
1-3" of snow	A couple of snow showers	Cold with a little snow	Cloudy with snow possible	Cloudy and cold
Baker City 23 Comfort Index™ 0	37 27 0	39 26 0	35 22 0	35 30 0
La Grande 26 Comfort Index™ 0	37 27 0	36 24 0	32 20 0	33 26 0
Enterprise 21 Comfort Index™ 0	35 23 0	33 22 0	31 16 0	29 21 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.

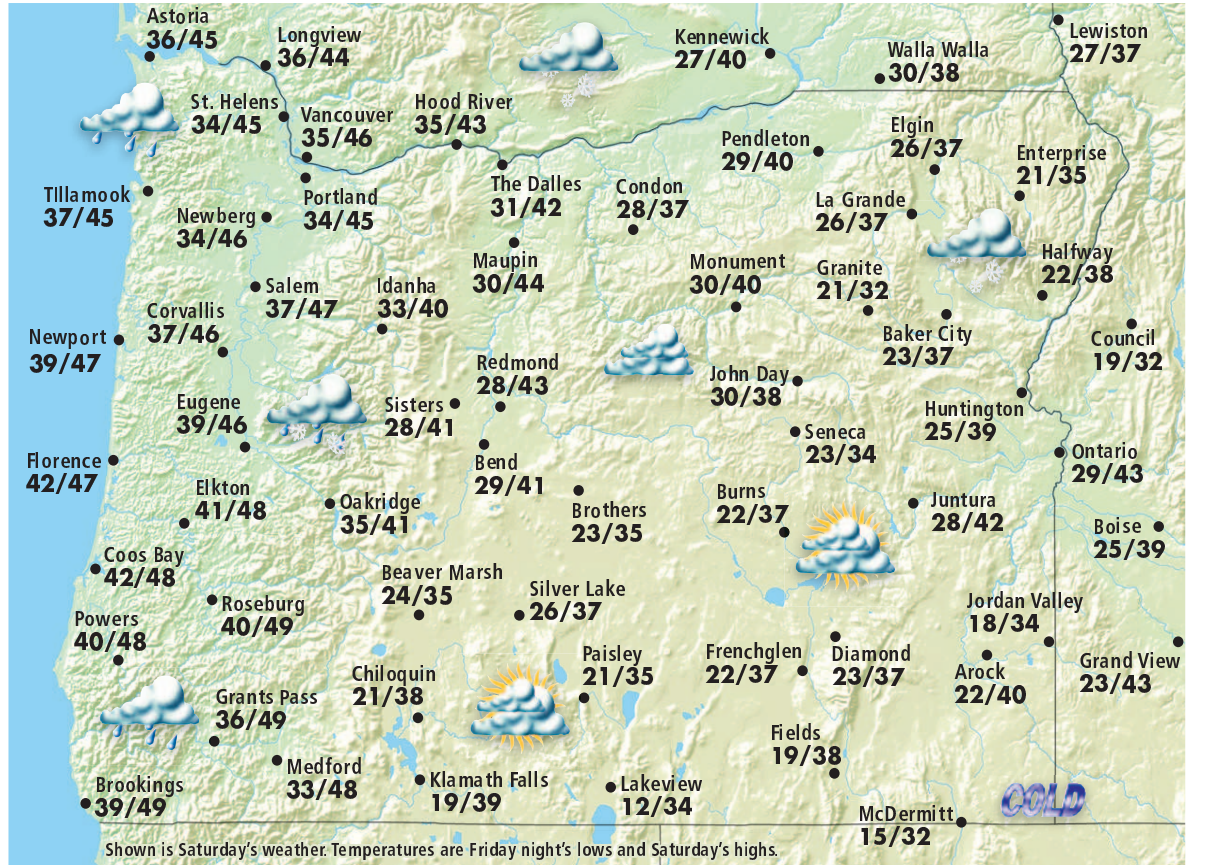
ALMANAC	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
TEMPERATURES			
High Wednesday	35°	35°	36°
Low Wednesday	22°	27°	26°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	0.02	0.10	0.47
Month to date	1.17	1.84	4.52
Normal month to date	0.41	0.79	1.66
Year to date	1.71	3.45	7.92
Normal year to date	1.21	2.42	4.83

WED. EXTREMES	NATION
WED. EXTREMES	(for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 89°	Winter Haven, Fla.
Low: -29°	Malta, Mont.
Wettest: 2.68"	Winona, Miss.
OREGON	
High: 52°	Scappoose
Low: 14°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.75"	Meacham

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY
Lowest relative humidity	60%
Afternoon wind	W at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.8
Evapotranspiration	0.04

RESERVOIR STORAGE	STREAM FLOWS
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)	STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)
Phillips Reservoir	Grande Ronde at Troy
Unity Reservoir	Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder
Owyhee Reservoir	Burnt River near Unity
McKay Reservoir	Umatilla River near Gibbon
Wallowa Lake	Minam River at Minam
Thief Valley Reservoir	Powder River near Richland

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES	SAT.	SUN.	RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY
REGIONAL CITIES	SAT.	SUN.	RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City
Astoria	45/34/r	46/31/sh	Lewiston
Bend	41/30/sf	37/21/sf	Longview
Boise	39/33/sn	41/33/sf	Meacham
Brookings	49/42/r	47/40/sh	Medford
Burns	37/30/sf	36/21/sf	Newport
Coos Bay	48/42/r	47/38/sh	Olympia
Corvallis	46/35/r	46/31/sh	Ontario
Council	32/26/sn	36/26/sf	Pasco
Elgin	37/25/sf	36/22/sn	Pendleton
Eugene	46/37/r	47/33/sh	Portland
Hermiston	43/26/pc	34/22/sf	Powers
Hood River	43/33/r	39/27/sh	Redmond
Imnaha	38/22/sf	37/25/sf	Roseburg
John Day	38/30/sf	39/28/sh	Salem
Joseph	34/23/c	33/22/sf	Spokane
Kennewick	40/25/pc	34/19/sh	The Dalles
Klamath Falls	39/29/sn	40/29/sh	Ukiah
Lakeview	34/27/sf	38/28/sf	Walla Walla

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