

Popular keepers collection covers many timeless topics

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about your Keepers booklet, the collection of your most popular essays, poems and letters. I would like to purchase a copy, but first, I have a question. Is there a particular favorite of yours in there?

— BIG FAN IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

DEAR FAN: My Keepers booklet contains 72 column items that readers have told me they had read and reread until they were yellowed with age and falling apart. This booklet was created because of the high volume of requests from my readers for a collection of these items in one easy-to-use booklet. The subjects are diverse, covering a variety of topics, including parenting, children, aging, animals, forgiveness, etc. One poem in particular has always resonated with me. It is titled "The Time Is Now," and I find its message both poignant and meaningful. I hope you will agree.



DEAR ABBY

THE TIME IS NOW (Author Unknown)
If you are ever going to love me,
Love me now, while I can know
The sweet and tender feelings
Which from true affection flow.
Love me now
While I am living.
Do not wait until I'm gone
And then have it chiseled in marble,
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.
If you have tender thoughts of me,
Please tell me now.
If you wait until I am sleeping,
Never to awaken,
There will be death between us
And I won't hear you then.
So, if you love me, even a little bit,
Let me know it while I am living
So I can treasure it.

Filled with clever observations, my Keepers booklet is both witty and philosophical. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. You will find it to be a quick and easy read, as well as an inexpensive gift for newly married couples,

pet lovers, new parents, and anyone who is grieving the loss of a friend or loved one or recovering from an illness.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 40 years, are professionals and work together. He is cynical, sarcastic, resentful, dismissive and insulting. What should I do?

— AT WIT'S END IN OREGON

DEAR A.W.E.: And you are only writing to me about this NOW? Having tolerated this kind of ill treatment for 40 years, I think the time has come to tune him out, don't you? Because your relationship may suffer from too much "togetherness," schedule time away from him -- and the business -- and do something pleasurable on your own whenever you can. And suggest he do the same because he may need a change of pace, too.

DEAR ABBY: I have a grandson who is turning 3. My son's fiancée, "Tina," watches him frequently while my daughter, "Lila," works. On several occasions, Tina has done things I don't agree with, but I have kept my peace. However, today Lila called me, extremely upset.

Apparently, while Tina was watching my grandson, she had another little boy there who is the same age as my grandson. She had taken it upon herself to potty train the boys, although nobody asked her to, and offered them ice cream if they used the potty. The other boy used it and was given ice cream. My grandson refused and didn't get any. He cried because he had to watch the other child enjoy the treat.

I think it was cruel. Children learn at their own pace. My son is siding with his fiancée, Tina, and everyone is upset. Any advice?

— EXTREMELY UPSET GRANDMA

DEAR UPSET GRANDMA: If she hasn't said it already, your daughter should politely make it clear to Tina that she prefers to toilet train her child without outside help. If Tina gives her an argument, Lila should make other arrangements for child care. And you should stand back and let them settle it between themselves.

Rain brings 2nd California super bloom in 2 years

The Associated Press
BORREGO SPRINGS, Calif. — It started with the desert lilies in December. Since then wildflower blooms have been crescendoing across Southern California's Anza-Borrego desert in a burst of color so vivid it can be seen from mountain tops thousands of feet above.

Two years after steady rains followed by warm temperatures caused seeds dormant for decades underground to burst open and produce a spectacular display dubbed the "super bloom," another winter soaking this year is expected to create possibly an even better show by Mother Nature.

Having two super blooms in two years is unusual. In California, super blooms happen about once in a decade in a given area, and they have been occurring less frequently with the drought.

The 2017 super bloom was the best seen in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in 20 years and drew mass crowds to Borrego Springs, a town of 3,500 that abuts the park.

"There's just an abundance

in where it's blooming and it's coming in waves," said Betsy Knaak, executive director of the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, which tracks the blooms.

On a recent day, Knaak wandered through swaths of bright yellow and acres of purple outside Borrego Springs. Families, retired couples and college students traipsed into the fields trying to capture it in photos.

Stephen Rawding drove out from Carlsbad, to take photos with his girlfriend after a friend told him it was better than the one in 2017. "It's unreal," Rawding said. "It's just like they said — so beautiful."

The setting sun lit up the yellow flowers that contrasted sharply against the brown and copper mountains in the background.

There are tapestries of hot pink Bigelow's Monkey Flower, purple Sand Verbena, delicate white and yellow Evening Primrose and of course the desert lilies, which bloomed early, opening up in December, signaling a super bloom was possible.

Bright orange poppies are also blanketing the sides of Southern California highways.

"It's a painting of colors at the moment out there in many of the areas," said Jim Dice, reserve manager of Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, University of California Natural Reserve System.

So far, six times the amount of rain has fallen in the Anza-Borrego desert this weather season compared to last year, Dice said.

If the caterpillars and freezing temperatures stay away, the wave of wildflowers could intensify and light up other areas well into spring.

The state park with 640,000 acres is California's largest, with hundreds of species of plants including blazing stars and the tall spiny Ocotillo, which are covered in buds that will open to flaming orange-red flowers.

A research associate at Dice's center recently hiked up to the top of Coyote Mountain and shot a photo of the purple fields 3,000 feet below.

"It was spectacular to see that from up above," Dice said.

More people regain power in central Oregon following storm

The Associated Press
EUGENE, Ore. — Power has been restored in Elkton, a rural west-central Oregon community that had experienced outages since a late February snowstorm.

But The Register-Guard reports more than 1,750 Douglas Electric Coop-

erative customers Monday were still without electricity.

After last month's storm knocked out the utility's entire system in Douglas County — about 9,600 customers in all — getting below the 2,000-customers-out mark was something to celebrate.

Douglas Electric's Todd Munsen said he expected the customers still without electricity Monday to have power again in two to three days. The utility restored power to Elkton late last week, but the outskirts of town still don't have electricity.

weather

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	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	Mainly clear and cold	Clouds and sun; chilly	Mostly sunny	Some sun	Partly sunny
Baker City	16	41 23	45 25	48 28	52 29
La Grande	17	45 26	48 26	50 28	57 32
Enterprise	15	42 22	45 23	48 26	55 32

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	47°	46°	46°
La Grande	15°	9°	5°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Monday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.31	Trace	0.65
Normal month to date	0.27	0.50	0.81
Year to date	2.77	4.15	10.54
Normal year to date	1.65	3.27	6.31

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY

Lowest relative humidity	35%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	1.6
Evapotranspiration	0.07

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)

Phillips Reservoir	10% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	40% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	48% of capacity
Mckay Reservoir	59% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	34% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	105% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1530 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	19 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	161 cfs
Minam River at Minam	141 cfs
Powder River near Richland	268 cfs

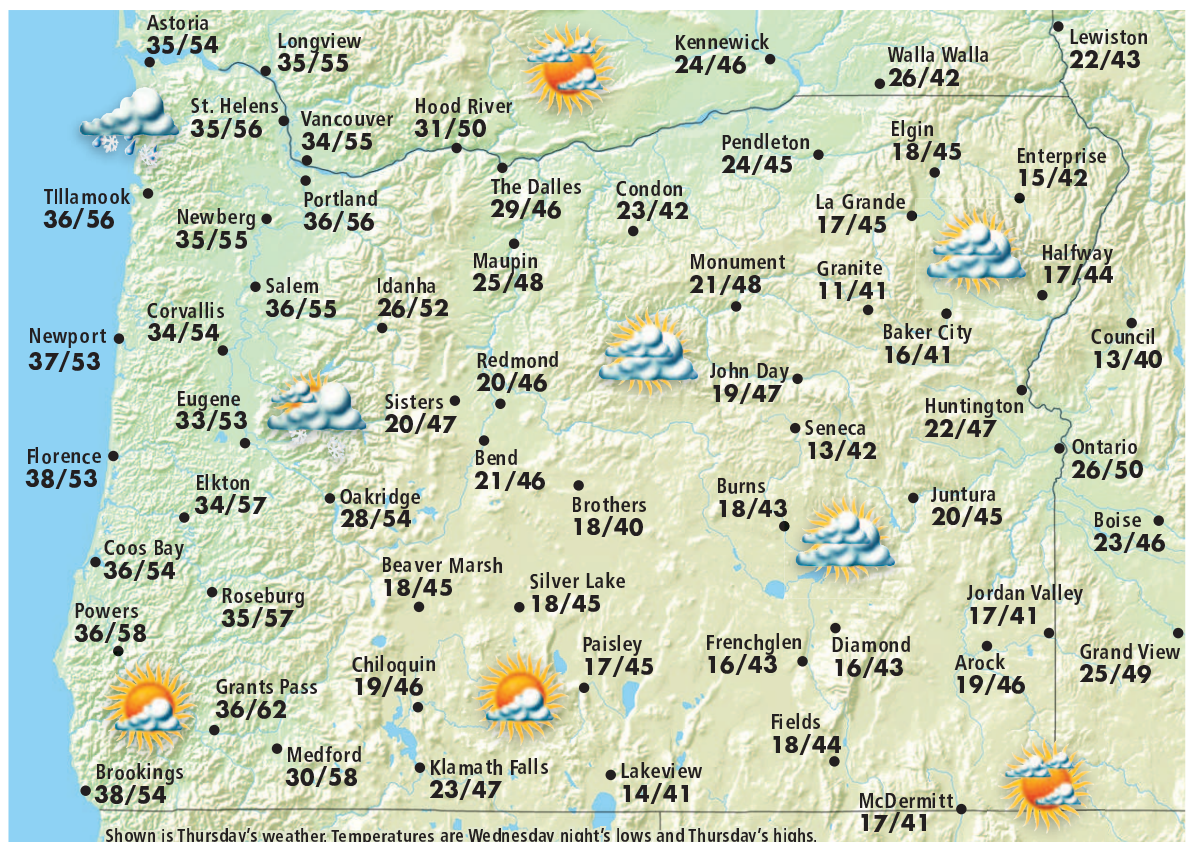
SUN & MOON

	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	7:09 a.m.	7:08 a.m.
Sunset	6:55 p.m.	6:56 p.m.
Moonrise	11:00 a.m.	11:46 a.m.
Moonset	1:18 a.m.	2:24 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Mar 14	Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 5

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W	City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	54/36/pc	58/40/pc	Lewiston	43/28/s	46/29/pc
Bend	46/24/pc	50/28/s	Longview	55/36/pc	60/39/pc
Boise	46/29/s	51/30/s	Meacham	43/24/pc	46/25/s
Brookings	54/38/pc	56/42/pc	Medford	58/33/pc	63/38/pc
Burns	43/25/s	47/28/s	Newport	53/37/pc	54/42/pc
Coos Bay	54/36/pc	56/41/pc	Olympia	55/34/pc	59/36/pc
Corvallis	54/33/pc	60/40/pc	Ontario	50/30/s	55/30/s
Council	40/20/s	45/21/s	Pasco	43/24/pc	44/25/s
Elgin	45/25/pc	47/25/s	Pendleton	45/27/pc	46/28/s
Eugene	53/34/pc	59/39/pc	Portland	56/37/pc	60/40/pc
Hermiston	48/28/pc	50/30/s	Powers	58/36/pc	62/40/pc
Hood River	50/30/pc	52/34/s	Redmond	46/25/pc	52/27/s
Imnaha	48/25/s	52/27/s	Roseburg	57/35/pc	62/41/pc
John Day	47/25/pc	50/27/s	Salem	55/34/pc	60/40/pc
Joseph	41/22/s	45/23/s	Spokane	40/22/pc	42/24/pc
Kennewick	46/26/pc	46/29/s	The Dalles	46/31/pc	47/33/s
Klamath Falls	47/26/pc	54/29/s	Ukiah	44/21/pc	47/23/s
Lakeview	41/20/s	45/23/s	Walla Walla	42/29/pc	43/31/s

RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Not as cold	26	13
MT. EMILY REC. Clouds and sun	35	24
EAGLE CAP WILD. Not as cold	32	14
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny	41	22
THIEF VALLEY RES. Sunshine; chilly	41	23
PHILLIPS LAKE Mostly sunny	42	19
BROWNLEE RES. Mostly sunny	47	23
EMIGRANT ST. PARK Clouds and sun	41	21
MCKAY RESERVOIR Clouds and sun	46	28
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Clouds and sun	45	26

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

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