

Curiosity about her childhood sweetheart still nags woman

DEAR ABBY: I've only had one boyfriend. For most of my childhood, he was my best friend. When we were 14, I got scared we might fight, break up and never forgive each other, so I told him I wanted to go back to being just friends without explaining why. In retrospect, I know how stupid it was, but when I was 14 it made perfect sense. When I said it, he got angry, but more than angry he was very hurt. I never saw him again.

My problem is, I haven't been able to put myself in a relationship since. Sometimes he resurfaces in my dreams. When it happens I always feel happy "seeing" him again. I don't know what to do about this nagging feeling and how I put off a love life because of it.

It's more than a decade later. He has probably changed so much and would want nothing to do with me, so I think it's better to leave him be. But I'd like to talk to the person he is now, whoever that is. Is there a way I can solve this?

— NERVOUS ROMANTIC

DEAR NERVOUS ROMANTIC: Yes. If you know where he is, contact him and tell him you would like to talk privately with him. Explain what happened so many years ago and see if he is willing to hear you out. And please stop beating yourself up over what happened when you were 14, because it was normal teenage behavior.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for three years. When we first met, he bonded very well with my three adult children. They liked him, and he was invited to every occasion.

My ex-husband is gay and is now married to his partner. We have remained friends and have even spent some occasions together. My boyfriend thinks this is totally dysfunctional, so I agreed that we would not spend occasions together anymore.

About a year ago, he started not wanting to participate in any event with my kids. We argued, and he said some nasty things about them. I was appalled. Had he just pretended to like them? He has had nothing to do with them for months.

My son is getting married next week, and when I told my boyfriend I don't think it's right that he come, he flipped out. Why would a man who didn't want anything to do with my kids expect to be welcomed at their wedding? Am I wrong?

— PERPLEXED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your children are not wrong. You are not wrong. The man you have been involved with for three years appears to be determined to isolate you from those to whom you are closest, and it is a big red flag! This isn't a question of right or wrong. It's a question of whether you want to continue a relationship with him and, if so, at what cost.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 50. All my life I have known I didn't want kids, and I have had to deal with people who can't understand it. I have now reached the point where I can hardly wait until I'm 55 so I can live in a child-free senior living development.

The problem is, my partner is 10 years younger than I am. He won't be able to move there when I do, so I'll have to wait another 10 years to live in peace. I don't want to break up with him, but I may have to. What is your take on the situation?

— OVER-55 ONLY

DEAR OVER-55: My "take" is that not all couples are exactly the same age, and if one partner qualifies to live in senior housing, his or her partner will not be excluded. My advice is to start researching retirement communities so you fully understand what the requirements and restrictions are before deciding to move there, with or without your partner.

DEAR ABBY: I know that you are all about good manners, but I think one current practice has gone WAY too far. When I sneeze, I get loud "bless you's" from neighbors down the street or co-workers in the next room. I am not religious, and I find it offensive. These "blessers" have been indoctrinated in a 600-year-old religious practice designed to prevent the plague from jumping into the sneezer's body. When someone passes gas or burps, the "excuse me's" are often more offensive than the act — no longer the demure "pardon me" of the past.

Sneezes, gas and burps are all natural parts of life. Can't we just let them be, without making them special?

— OFFENDED OUT WEST

DEAR OFFENDED: You can. All you have to do is tell your neighbors and co-workers your attitude about their thoughtfulness, and I am sure they will refrain. In droves.

Creeping floodwaters threaten Washington DC's cherry blossoms

Ashraf Khalil
The Associated Press

D.C. — Washington's cherry blossom season has gone well this year, thanks to warm weather that has coincided perfectly with the annual blooming that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each spring.

But officials are claiming Washington's iconic trees are under a looming threat that requires emergency action.

Decades of wear and tear from foot traffic, combined with rising sea levels and a deteriorating sea wall, have created a chronic flooding problem in the Tidal Basin. The 107-acre man-made reservoir borders the Jefferson Memorial and is home to the highest concentration of cherry blossom trees.

"The Tidal Basin is at a pivotal moment," said Jeff Reinbold, acting superintendent for the National Mall and Memorial Parks division of the National Park Service. "The area was never designed for the kind of use it sees today."

The National Park Service, along with the Trust for the National Mall and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is undertaking a campaign to save the Tidal Basin. In addition to rebuilding the battered sea wall and addressing the flooding problem, the groups want to improve walkways and update se-

curity systems.

Twice a day at high tide, a large stretch of sidewalk next to the Jefferson Memorial is submerged by the rising waters. During the heavy rains that routinely occur in D.C., the floodwaters completely overflow the sea wall in multiple locations and soak the tree roots.

It's more than just an inconvenience.

Teresa Durkin, senior project director of the Trust for the National Mall, said the higher silt concentration of the floodwaters is shortening the life span of the hundreds of cherry blossom trees that ring the basin. "The infrastructure is breaking down because of the daily flooding. The trees are being inundated with brackish water," she said. "People do love these trees and we keep having to replace them."

Early estimates are that the rehabilitation project would require as much as \$500 million, with organizers seeking a combination of government money and private donations.

The organizations are partnering with American Express, which is funding the creation of the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab and inviting architectural and landscape design firms to submit proposals for replacing the sea wall and refurbishing and modernizing the entire area.

Sean Kennealy, the chief of professional services for the National

Mall and Memorial Parks division, said the original 1880s design of the Tidal Basin simply wasn't equipped to handle the kinds of crowds and traffic the area now receives. That traffic has only increased as more monuments have been added to the Tidal Basin area over the years: a memorial to Franklin Roosevelt opened in 1997, and the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial was inaugurated in 2011.

Even without the worsening flooding problem, Kennealy said the network of sidewalks and pathways needs to be expanded to accommodate the modern visitor numbers.

"People have started making their own paths through the grass because the walkways are either not wide enough or underwater," Kennealy said. "The trees just aren't being protected the way they should be."

For now the Tidal Basin's structural issues remain fairly low key. Janice Contreras, a tourist from Arizona visiting the Tidal Basin on Wednesday, said it didn't really affect her experience. But it's hard not to notice a large stretch of sidewalk seemingly being reclaimed by the advancing waters.

"Does that really happen twice a day," she asked. "It doesn't really bother me, but there's no way that's good for the trees, right?"

weather

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	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	Mainly cloudy	Spotty afternoon showers	Cloudy with a few showers	Cloudy with a shower	Occasional rain
Baker City	32	56 40	61 42	60 39	55 33
Comfort Index™	6	5	6	6	1
La Grande	34	55 43	55 42	55 40	52 35
Comfort Index™	6	3	3	4	1
Enterprise	30	52 41	52 38	52 39	48 33
Comfort Index™	4	3	3	5	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 Wednesday	64°	60°	57°
Low Wednesday	39°	44°	45°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	0.00	0.04	0.01
Month to date	0.03	0.04	0.01
Normal month to date	0.07	0.16	0.20
Year to date	3.66	4.95	11.73
Normal year to date	2.27	4.39	7.90

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High: 89° Presidio, Texas
 Low: 10° Ely, Minn.
 Wettest: 2.37" Clinton, Okla.

OREGON
 High: 70° Hermiston
 Low: 29° Crater Lake
 Wettest: 0.16" North Bend

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY

Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	5 at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.7
Evapotranspiration	0.09

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)

Phillips Reservoir	19% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	68% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	63% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	92% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	62% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	107% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	10500 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	220 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	882 cfs
Minam River at Minam	509 cfs
Powder River near Richland	766 cfs

SUN & MOON

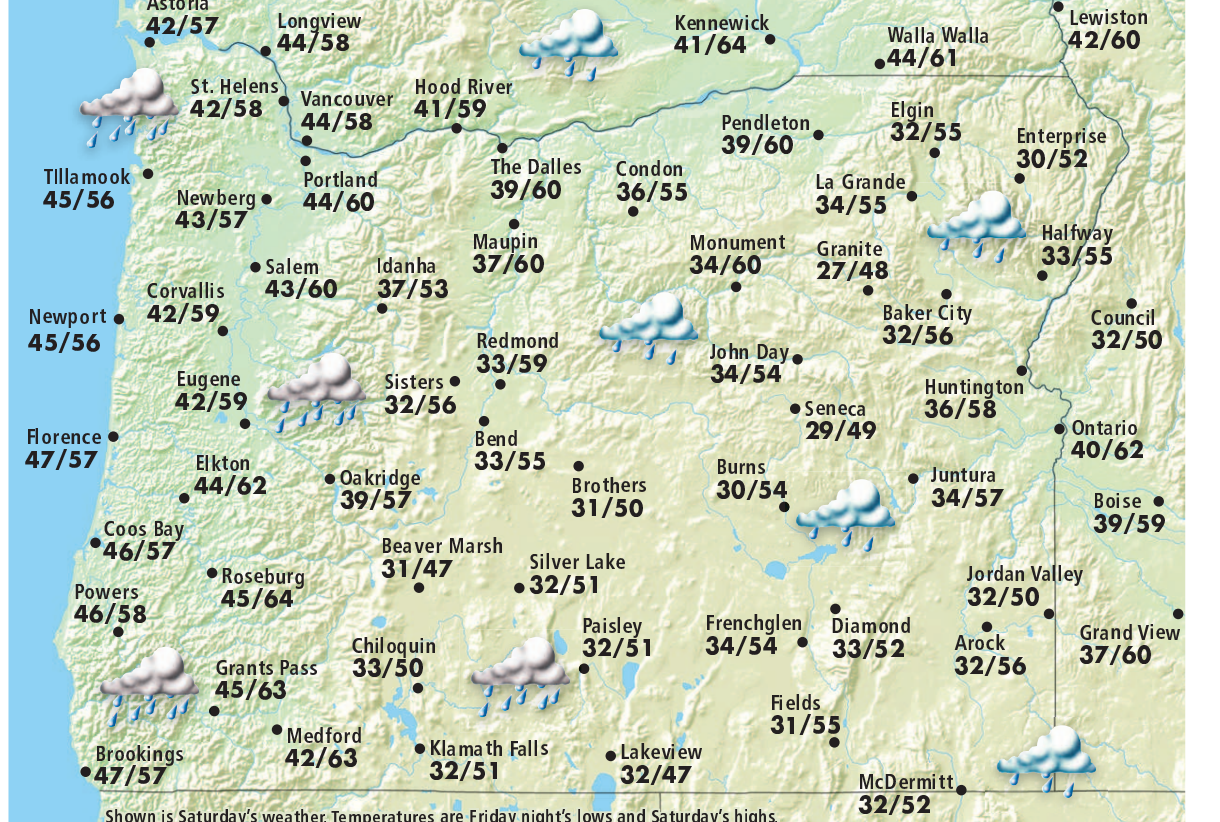
Friday, April 5, 2019

Sunrise: 6:26 a.m. Sunset: 7:25 p.m.
 Moonrise: 7:03 a.m. Moonset: 7:55 p.m.

MOON PHASES

Phase	Approx. Date
New	Apr 5
First	Apr 12
Full	Apr 19
Last	Apr 26

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	City	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	SUN. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	57/42/r	58/42/r	Lewiston	60/46/pc	60/48/sh
Bend	55/43/sh	56/43/sh	Longview	58/43/r	60/45/r
Boise	59/46/pc	62/49/c	Mecham	53/42/sh	52/40/sh
Brookings	57/52/r	58/50/r	Medford	63/49/r	67/52/r
Burns	54/43/c	59/44/c	Newport	56/49/r	55/47/r
Coos Bay	57/51/r	58/51/r	Olympia	58/37/r	60/36/r
Corvallis	59/50/r	61/49/r	Ontario	62/48/pc	64/50/c
Council	50/38/pc	51/41/sh	Pasco	64/47/c	64/46/sh
Elgin	55/42/sh	54/41/sh	Pendleton	60/47/pc	58/46/sh
Eugene	59/51/r	61/50/r	Portland	60/47/r	61/49/r
Hermiston	64/48/sh	63/46/sh	Powers	58/52/r	59/53/r
Hood River	59/46/sh	59/46/sh	Redmond	59/43/sh	60/45/sh
Imnaha	57/45/sh	57/45/sh	Roseburg	64/54/r	64/54/r
John Day	54/46/c	55/44/c	Salem	60/48/r	62/49/r
Joseph	51/39/sh	51/38/sh	Spokane	54/43/sh	56/42/sh
Kennebec	64/49/c	63/45/sh	The Dalles	60/45/sh	60/46/sh
Klamath Falls	51/41/r	58/44/r	Ukiah	54/43/c	53/39/sh
Lakeview	47/41/sh	55/44/c	Walla Walla	61/49/pc	63/50/sh

WED. RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

Location	Forecast	High/Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Mostly cloudy	31 / 27
PHILLIPS LAKE	A shower	49 / 39
MT. EMILY REC.	Showers around	43 / 37
BROWNLEE RES.	A few showers	57 / 44
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A p.m. shower	37 / 31
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Showers around	50 / 39
WALLOWA LAKE	Showers around	51 / 39
MCKAY RESERVOIR	A shower	60 / 47
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A p.m. shower	56 / 40
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Showers around	55 / 43

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

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