

Old friend declines to attend wedding she can't endorse

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend of many years is marrying for the fourth time. Her fiancé is verbally abusive and a heavy drinker. After a particularly bad period she went through with him, I told her that if she went ahead and married him, she should just let me know when it was over because I had no desire to witness this union.

Well, she called me a few days ago with the date, assuming I was going to go. When I reminded her of what I had said, she said she hadn't believed me. She wasn't happy about my refusal to go, but seems to have accepted it. My question is, do I need to acknowledge this wedding (only six people are attending) with a card or just let the day pass?

—NOT A FAN OF THE MAN

DEAR NOT A FAN: Be prepared for the fact that your decision not to attend her wedding may result in distancing you from your friend. Send a sweet card with your good wishes. Then cross your fingers and pray for her well-being.

DEAR ABBY: I am a disabled vet, long divorced. My significant other is a widow eight years older than I am, who suffers from advanced arthritis. I love her with all my heart, but I have become a full-time caregiver when I pretty much need someone to take care of me. I find myself almost wishing she would pass, so I could lay down and die myself. Any thoughts?

—WORN OUT IN THE CAROLINAS

DEAR WORN OUT: Yes, but before I share them I want to thank you for your service to our country.

As much as you love your lady friend, your own health must come first. For both your sakes, you must NOT allow taking care of her to make you sick.

Does she have family who could help out? If not, perhaps social services can guide you in finding someone to assist her with the duties you have taken on. However, before doing that, please talk with your doctor and tell him or her what you have written to me because the feelings you describe may be symptoms not only of exhaustion but also depression, which is treatable.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I are set to take a weeklong vacation with another family this

summer. We will be renting a house. What is the appropriate split for the rental fee? My wife and I have four children; the other couple has two. All of the children are under the age of 8.

I think my wife and I should pay more because our family is larger. My wife agrees, but isn't sure what the split should be. The other couple wants to pay 50/50, saying the children are so little they shouldn't be considered in the cost of the trip. I think an appropriate compromise would be for each family to pay half the rental, but my wife and I pay for all of the food. What do you think?

—HAPPY PROBLEM

DEAR HAPPY PROBLEM: I think it would be appropriate to offer a split of 60/40. That way you would be paying a little bit extra. However, if they still prefer splitting it in half, you should agree rather than argue.

DEAR ABBY: I went out with some girlfriends a few weeks ago. We began chatting and, after a while, I started to notice things that made me feel disconnected from them. After thinking about it later, I realized that although we have known each other for 10 years, we no longer have much in common.

We used to work together and shared that, but it's no longer the case. I think I might have more in common with others. We never fight, and they are wonderful people, but each time I open myself up to them, I feel judged and different. How do you suggest I maintain my friendships? Is it worth it?

—FAITHFUL FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR FRIEND: If the only thing these women brought to your relationship was the fact that you used to work together, and because circumstances have changed, it may be time to re-evaluate how important these workplace friendships are to you. Friends do not have to think in lockstep, and they shouldn't make you feel judged if your opinions differ from theirs.

A way to maintain friendships like these is to see the individuals less often and, when you do, talk about the things you do have in common. If that doesn't work, realize that not all friendships last forever and move on. Sometimes friendships run their course, and this may be one of those times.

Blame it on Bieber: Iceland canyon too popular with visitors

By Egill Bjamason

The Associated Press

FJADRÁRGLJÚFUR, Iceland — A large sign warns motorists that Iceland's Fjadrárgljúfur canyon is closed to visitors but drivers keep on coming down the narrow gravel road. A ranger at a roadblock has to explain why no one can pass: The vulnerable landscape cannot sustain more visitors.

Blame Justin Bieber, the Canadian pop star with a worldwide reach.

Bieber's magical music video "I'll Show You" was filmed at the canyon and seen by millions, creating overwhelming demand for the once-pristine spot. For a chance to follow in Bieber's footsteps, his fans are not letting a few fences, signs or park rangers keep them away.

Eager visitors try to sweet-talk ranger Hanna Jóhannsdóttir into opening the gate. Some offer bribes. They should know in advance it's not going to work.

"Food from people's home country is the most common bribery," said Jóhannsdóttir, who recently turned down a free trip to Dubai in exchange for looking the other way at trespassers.

The Bieber-inspired influx is one part of a larger challenge for Iceland — the North Atlantic island nation may be too spectacular and too popular for its own good.

Last year 2.3 million tourists visited Iceland, compared with just 600,000 eight years ago. The 20% annual uptick in visitors has been out of proportion

with infrastructure that is needed to protect Iceland's volcanic landscape, where soil forms slowly and erodes quickly.

Environment Minister Gudmundur Ingi Gudbrandsson said it is "a bit too simplistic to blame the entire situation on Justin Bieber" but urged famous, influential visitors to consider the consequences of their actions.

"Rash behavior by one famous person can dramatically impact an entire area if the mass follows," he told The Associated Press.

Bieber has the third-largest Twitter account at over 105 million followers, after Katy Perry and Barack Obama, according to friendorfollow.com — and he has over 112 million followers on Instagram.

In the viral video — watched over 440 million times on YouTube since 2015 — Bieber stomped on mossy vegetation, dangled his feet over a cliff and bathed in the freezing river underneath the sheer walls of the canyon.

"In Justin Bieber's defense, the canyon did not, at the time he visited, have rope fences and designated paths to show what was allowed and what not," Gudbrandsson said.

Over 1 million people have visited the area since the release of the video, the Environment Agency of Iceland estimates, leaving deep scars on its vegetation. After remaining closed for all but five weeks this year, it is expected to reopen again this summer only if weather

conditions are dry.

Icelanders are reluctant to fault the pop star, who enjoys enormous support on the island. About 12% of Iceland's entire population — 38,000 people — attended his two concerts in Reykjavík, the capital, a year after the video was released.

Locals underestimated the canyon's potential as a major attraction because it's relatively small compared to those formed by the country's powerful glacier rivers. But unlike others, it is easily accessed and requires less than a kilometer (0.6 miles) of trekking.

The selfies and drone images have stopped — for now — but more exposure is coming. The latest season of the popular HBO drama "Game of Thrones" features scenes filmed at the canyon. The nearby Skógar waterfall and the Svinafells glacier are also backdrops in the fictional Thrones world of warriors and dragons.

Inga Palsdóttir, director of the national tourism agency Visit Iceland, said a single film shot or a viral photograph has often put overlooked places on the map.

The most extreme example, she said, is the Douglas DC-3 U.S. Navy plane that crashed on the black sand beach at Sólheimasandur in 1973. The seven Americans on board all survived but the plane wreck was never removed.

"Then someone decided to dance on it and now it's one of the most popular places in the country," said Palsdóttir.

weather

TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Periods of rain	Cool with periods of rain	A thick cloud cover	Turning cloudy	A couple of showers
Baker City 41 Comfort Index™ 3	56 43 0	60 37 2	64 38 9	63 39 7
La Grande 43 Comfort Index™ 3	56 44 0	60 40 4	64 40 5	68 43 8
Enterprise 40 Comfort Index™ 5	52 41 0	56 37 0	59 38 5	64 42 10

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 Saturday	66°	67°	73°
Low Saturday	34°	35°	41°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Saturday	Trace	0.00	0.07
Month to date	0.32	0.99	0.80
Normal month to date	0.81	1.14	1.27
Year to date	4.79	8.21	17.72
Normal year to date	3.86	6.95	10.96

SATURDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 101°	Zapata, Texas
Low: 15°	Climax, Colo.
Wettest: 3.35"	Palestine, Texas

OREGON	
High: 76°	Hermiston
Low: 30°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.17"	Florence

WEATHER HISTORY

On May 20, 1982, Cincinnati's eastern suburb of Milford was swamped by 2.50 inches of rain in just a half of an hour. Cincinnati's average May rainfall is 4.07 inches.

SUN & MOON

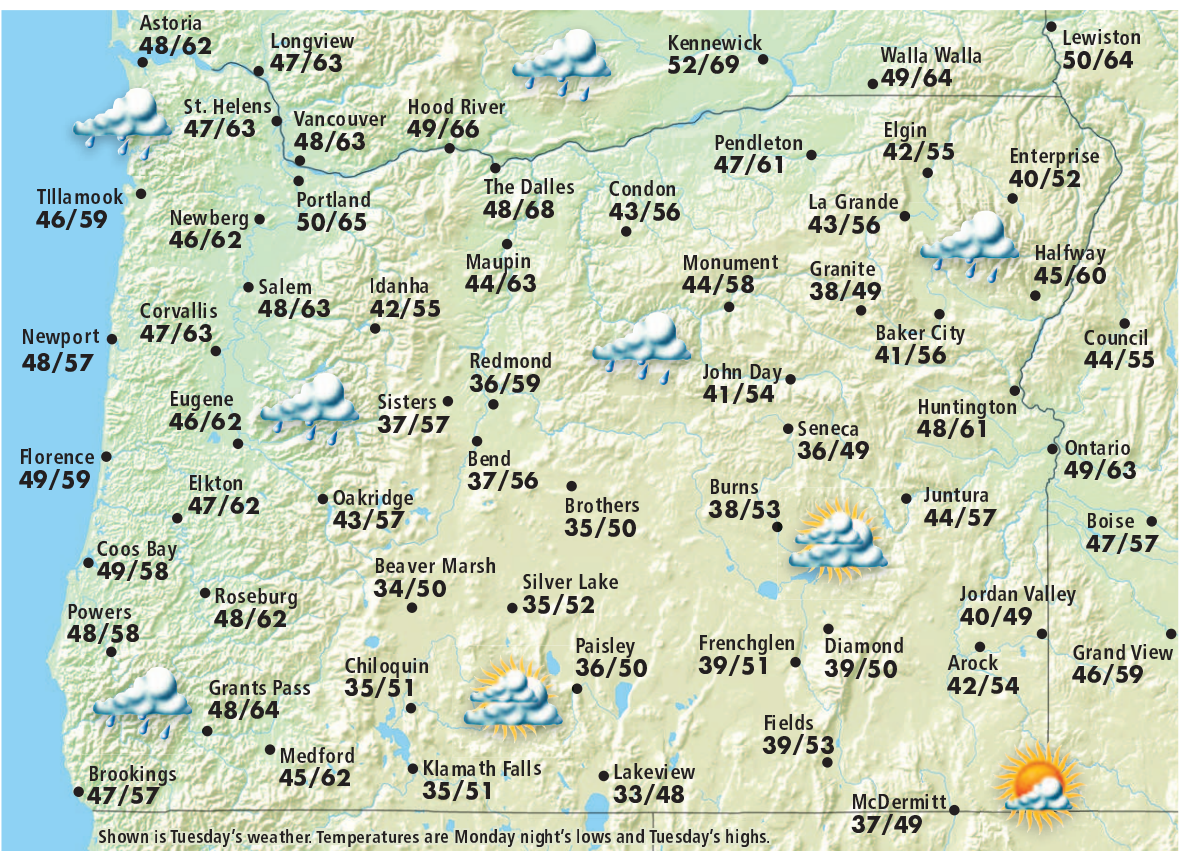
	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	5:17 a.m.	5:16 a.m.
Sunset	8:21 p.m.	8:22 p.m.
Moonrise	10:29 p.m.	11:25 p.m.
Moonset	6:49 a.m.	7:35 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
			
May 26	Jun 3	Jun 9	Jun 17

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	62/50/c	62/52/c	Lewiston	64/48/r	70/48/c
Bend	56/38/c	61/42/c	Longview	63/48/c	69/50/c
Boise	57/44/sh	61/44/c	Meacham	53/41/r	58/38/c
Brookings	57/47/sh	62/49/pc	Medford	62/46/c	67/49/c
Burns	53/40/sh	58/38/c	Newport	57/49/sh	58/51/c
Coos Bay	58/51/sh	58/52/r	Olympia	64/44/c	72/47/pc
Corvallis	63/46/c	67/49/c	Ontario	63/47/sh	67/46/c
Council	55/44/r	62/40/c	Pasco	69/51/r	77/51/c
Elgin	55/43/r	60/40/c	Pendleton	61/46/r	68/44/c
Eugene	62/45/c	68/48/c	Portland	65/51/c	71/54/c
Hermiston	68/49/sh	76/50/c	Powers	58/49/sh	59/51/sh
Hood River	66/50/pc	72/52/pc	Redmond	59/37/c	65/42/c
Imnaha	58/46/r	63/43/sh	Roseburg	62/47/c	67/52/c
John Day	54/44/sh	59/41/c	Salem	63/46/c	69/49/c
Joseph	51/40/r	54/36/sh	Spokane	64/49/c	66/50/c
Kennewick	69/51/r	76/52/c	The Dalles	68/51/pc	74/52/c
Klamath Falls	51/36/sh	58/38/pc	Ukiah	51/40/r	56/36/c
Lakeview	48/35/sh	54/38/c	Walla Walla	64/48/r	70/49/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	A bit of snow	36 31		PHILLIPS LAKE	A little rain	51 41	
MT. EMILY REC.	Cold with rain	45 39		BROWNLEE RES.	A little rain	59 45	
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A little rain	40 33		EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A bit of rain	48 39	
WALLOWA LAKE	Cool with rain	51 40		MCKAY RESERVOIR	A little a.m. rain	60 45	
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A bit of rain	56 43		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Cool with rain	56 44	



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