

Conference attendee wants to stay out of the picture

DEAR ABBY: I'm going to a professional conference, which has the usual presentations, vendors and activities. Every time I go, there's always a photographer. It's annoying. When a photographer sneaks up to take photos, it distracts the presenter. Then the camera is usually swung around to shoot the audience.

I have been photographed many times while I was browsing through the vendors. I have never given my permission to have any of them published. The photos appear on state or national organization websites for viewing by association members (not the general public). What are my rights? Am I the only one who is camera shy?

— **TEACHER ON THE WEST COAST**

DEAR TEACHER: You are not the only person who dislikes having their picture taken — particularly without permission. Many others also do. However, if the photographer has been hired by the association sponsoring the event, I don't think you have any choice about being photographed. You might be out of camera range if you sit toward the back of the audience. Or, do what some celebrities do — wear dark glasses.

DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, I went out on three dates with "Kevin." Then he sent me a text saying he didn't feel I could offer him the relationship he is looking for, but he wants to remain friends because he has fun with me. I agreed, and we've gotten together many times since and communicate often.

I am not physically attracted to him, but I sense he is attracted to me, and it makes me uncomfortable. Since we agreed to be friends, he has invited me over for "movie and cuddle night," put his arm around me, asked to kiss me and booked a hotel room with only one bed and no sofa. It's like I am his placeholder until he finds a real girlfriend, and he wants to spend time with me only out of boredom and loneliness. I don't know how to break things off nicely.

— **NOT INTERESTED IN THE WEST**

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: I think you have Kevin pegged correctly. Here's how to distance yourself "nicely." Tell him you like him very much. But as a platonic

friend only. Explain that kissing, cuddling and sharing a bed are things you do with a boyfriend, and it's time for both of you to move on. Then do it.

DEAR ABBY: I added my 37-year-old son to my insurance policy because it would cost him almost double if he went on his own. The problem is, I struggle every month getting him to send me the money so I can pay the premium. He promises to send it but never does. What should I do?

— **CANT AFFORD IT IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR CANT: Give your irresponsible son a date by which you expect to have the money each month for his share of the premium. Tell him that if the money is not there when it's time for you to send the payment that you will drop him from your insurance. Make sure he understands that this is not an idle threat, and if he doesn't follow through, take him off the policy.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter married a man last spring. One week after their honeymoon, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastasized colon cancer. After eight months of doctors, hospitals and chemo, he passed away.

They never had an opportunity to write thank-you notes for their wedding gifts. My daughter feels it is not appropriate now. I feel she should do it, saying something like, "Before my husband passed away, we enjoyed this gift very much." She said to ask you. What is your opinion?

— **WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR WONDERING: It is always appropriate to thank people for their kindness. Since you asked my opinion, I agree that your daughter should write short notes to the people who gave her wedding gifts and tell them she would have written sooner, but she is still grieving the loss of her husband. Then she should thank them for their generosity. The rules of etiquette do not require her to say more than that. When you discuss with her what I have written — as I am sure you will — please convey to her my deepest sympathy.

Historically wet Northwest faces growing wildfire threat

By Tom James
The Associated Press

ISSAQUAH, Washington — Nestled in the foothills of Washington's Cascade Mountains, the bustling Seattle suburb of Issaquah seems an unlikely candidate for anxiety over wildfires.

The region, famous for its rainfall, has long escaped major burns even as global warming has driven an increase in the size and number of wildfires elsewhere in the American West.

But according to experts, previously too-wet-to-burn parts of the Pacific Northwest face an increasing risk of significant wildfires due to changes in its climate driven by the same phenomenon: Global warming is bringing higher temperatures, lower humidity and longer stretches of drought.

And the region is uniquely exposed to the threat, with property owners who are often less prepared for fire than those in drier places and more homes tucked along forests than any other western state.

In Issaquah and towns like it across the region, that takes a shape familiar from recent destructive California wildfires: heavy vegetation that spills into backyards, often pressing against houses in neighborhoods built along mountains, with strong seasonal winds and few roads leading out.

"The only thing that's keeping it from going off like a nuclear bomb is the weather," said Chris Dicus, a professor at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and head of the Association for Fire Ecology, a national group that studies wildfire and includes experts from the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey.

With historically short summers, the swath of densely forested coastal territory stretching from British Columbia into northwestern Oregon has long been cloaked in a protective veil of moisture, making even medium-sized fires relatively rare. So-called "megafires" — enveloping hundreds of thousands of acres and even generating their own weather — have occurred only at century-plus intervals.

But global warming is changing the region's seasons. A national climate assessment prepared by 13 federal agencies and released in 2018 said the Pacific Northwest had warmed nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit since

1900 and that trend would continue into the century, leading to warmer winters and less mountain snowpack.

Experts say these long-term changes create a special risk in Pacific Northwest forests, where past wet weather has created ample fuel for fires: Even a modest increase in contributing factors, like days without rain, could make them much more prone to burning.

"It's a couple of degrees difference. It's a couple of weeks' difference," said Michael Medler, a fire scientist and chair of the environmental studies department at Western Washington University. "Those are the kinds of changes that amount to taking a forest and pushing it over the edge."

Exactly when any one part of the region will reach that point is hard to predict, and researchers stressed that unknowns exist in modeling fire in woods that have burned so infrequently. But all pointed to changes already beginning to take place.

This year's fire danger, for instance, reached above-normal levels in the region a full three months earlier than at any time in more than 10 years, driven partly by an abnormally dry winter.

And fire counts are up: As of late June, western Oregon forests have seen double the average number of fire starts from the previous decade — 48 compared with 20. Western Washington saw an even larger increase, with 194 starts compared with an average of 74.

Even the region around Astoria, Oregon, which frequently gets 100-plus rainy days per year, making it one of the wettest parts of the state, has seen a dozen small fires in 2018 and 2019, according to data from the Oregon Department of Forestry. That compares with an average of just two per year over the previous decade.

Last year, 40% of Washington's wildfires were on its wetter western side, according to Janet Pearce, a spokeswoman for that state's natural resources agency.

"That was alarming and a first for us," she said in an email.

The risk is amplified by development patterns throughout the Pacific Northwest, where experts say the long gaps between major fires have created a perception of the forest as being too wet to burn.

weather

TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny and warm	Very warm with some sun	A shower in the afternoon	Variable cloudiness
Baker City 56 Comfort Index™ 4	97 56 2	96 56 4	90 52 6	90 50 6
La Grande 59 Comfort Index™ 4	96 63 4	95 60 4	90 57 8	88 55 8
Enterprise 59 Comfort Index™ 4	93 61 4	91 57 4	85 54 8	85 51 7

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			SATURDAY EXTREMES		
High Saturday	Baker City 92°	La Grande 90°	Elgin 93°	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 122°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low Saturday	55°	59°	53°	Low: 36°		Stanley, Idaho
PRECIPITATION (inches)				Wettest: 5.32"		Cushing, Okla.
Saturday	0.00	0.00	0.00	OREGON	High: 99°	Ontario
Month to date	Trace	0.00	0.00	Low: 46°		Meacham
Normal month to date	0.06	0.07	0.06	Wettest: none		
Year to date	6.08	10.81	20.40			
Normal year to date	6.42	10.09	14.43			

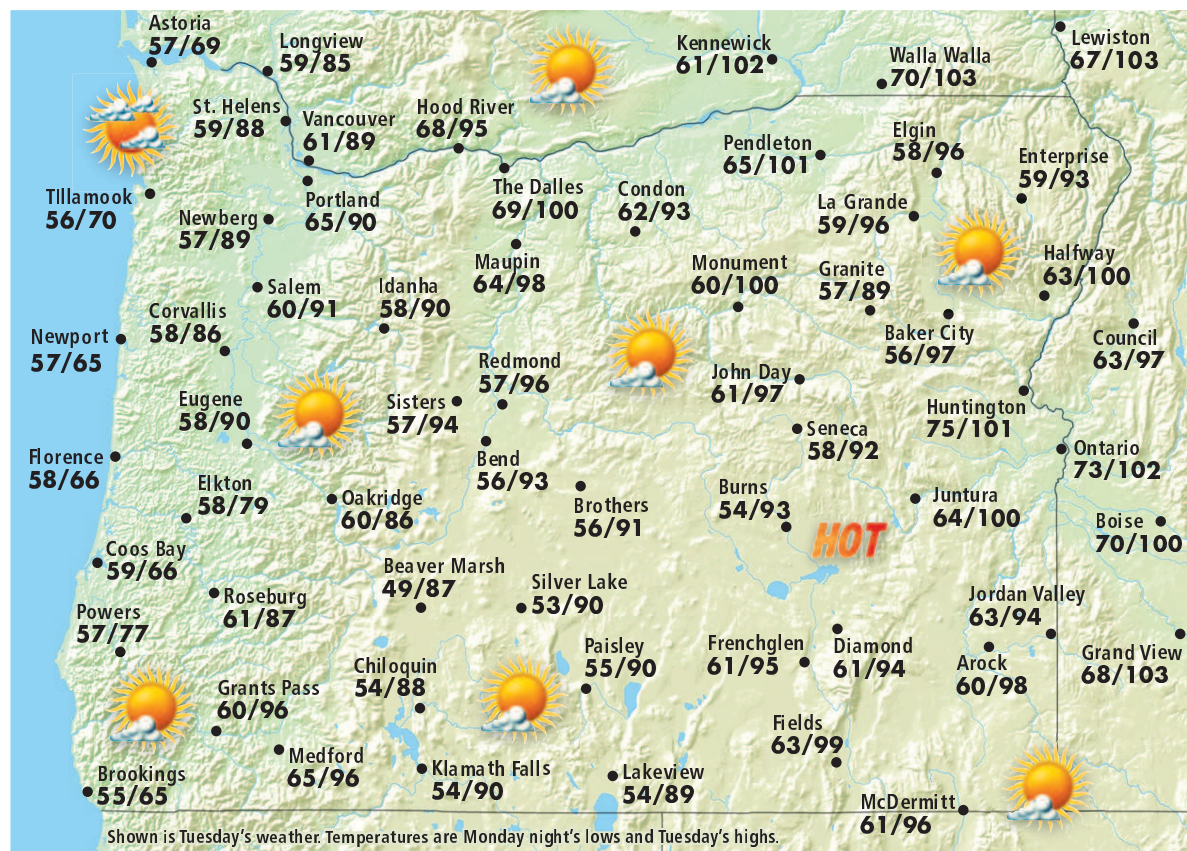
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY
Lowest relative humidity	20%
Afternoon wind	NE at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	12.2
Evapotranspiration	0.27

RESERVOIR STORAGE	SUN & MOON
Phillips Reservoir	50% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	60% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	84% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	70% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	62% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	53% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS	MOON PHASES
Grande Ronde at Troy	710 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	132 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	128 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	31 cfs
Minam River at Minam	185 cfs
Powder River near Richland	22 cfs

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	69/57/pc	69/58/c	Lewiston	103/69/s	100/69/pc
Bend	93/55/s	91/53/t	Longview	85/59/s	78/58/c
Boise	100/69/s	98/69/s	Meacham	95/59/s	92/57/pc
Brookings	65/54/pc	63/52/pc	Medford	96/63/s	91/61/s
Burns	93/55/s	93/54/s	Newport	65/58/pc	64/56/c
Coos Bay	66/59/pc	66/57/pc	Olympia	88/55/s	81/55/pc
Corvallis	86/58/s	78/56/c	Ontario	102/71/s	101/70/s
Council	97/63/s	97/61/s	Pasco	103/66/s	102/65/s
Elgin	96/62/s	94/59/pc	Pendleton	101/70/s	99/65/s
Eugene	90/57/s	81/56/pc	Portland	90/64/s	83/64/pc
Hermiston	103/71/s	101/67/s	Powers	77/58/s	72/52/pc
Hood River	95/68/s	88/64/pc	Redmond	96/55/s	95/53/s
Imnaha	98/66/s	97/66/pc	Roseburg	87/61/s	80/60/pc
John Day	97/66/s	94/61/s	Salem	91/59/s	82/58/pc
Joseph	92/62/s	91/58/pc	Spokane	96/67/s	96/65/s
Kennewick	102/68/s	102/66/s	The Dalles	100/70/s	92/66/s
Klamath Falls	90/51/s	89/49/s	Ukiah	93/57/s	91/53/s
Lakeview	89/51/s	89/47/s	Walla Walla	103/73/s	100/71/s

RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Mostly sunny	70 48	PHILLIPS LAKE Sunshine and hot	91 56
MT. EMILY REC. Mostly sunny	83 58	BROWNLEE RES. Mostly sunny, warm	100 66
EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly sunny, warm	78 51	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Mostly sunny, warm	90 52
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny, hot	92 62	MCKAY RESERVOIR Mostly sunny, hot	99 67
THIEF VALLEY RES. Very hot	97 56	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly sunny, warm	96 63

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Sat. 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Sun. 12 noon-4 pm