

Cross-dressing best friend wants to go out as a couple

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I are both male and 25. We've been friends since third grade. We were apart for four years of college and two years after because we were employed in different states. He has now been transferred and lives and works a few miles from where I do. We see each other frequently and often double date.

He recently shared a secret after pledging me to secrecy. He's a cross-dresser. He says he's not gay, and I believe him. He has pictures he had taken professionally in which he is completely feminine and even beautiful. He says he has been dressing up since the age of 12.

Abby, he wants to go out in public with me as a couple. Even though he is small and would easily pass, I'm just not into it. And what explanation would I give to my girlfriend? He says if I won't, I'm not a true friend; I say HE isn't. Is there any way to resolve this?

— TESTED IN TAMPA

DEAR TESTED: There is a way, provided your friend is open to it. How about you and he and your girlfriend going out together? Of course, your girlfriend would have to know the truth, and your friend would have to be OK with her knowing. This way if you were seen with "another woman," it wouldn't cause conflict with the woman you're dating.

That said, you should not do anything you are uncomfortable with, so think carefully before deciding.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a relationship with a woman 25 years my junior. We talked at length about some of the issues we might encounter before we embarked on a relationship. We love each other completely. Her father, however, strongly disapproves based solely on our age difference. He has stated that he had no issues with me personally.

She recently told me that she isn't happy and she wants us to spend some time apart. Neither of her two marriages worked out. She says I'm not the issue.

She wants to be with me, but her father would shun her — and me — if we were ever to be in the same room. He has actually

said he'd walk out if I were present. She told me he was this way with her first marriage, which he did not approve of.

What do I do? I love her, but I can't get her to see how much I love and care for her and her two boys. How much space should I give her to figure herself out?

— TORN UP IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TORN UP: The woman you love may be twice divorced, but she isn't free. She is firmly under her father's thumb. The age difference is the least of your worries.

Regardless of your feelings for her, because she says she is no longer happy with you, it's time to make a U-turn. And when you do, suggest that if she wants to have a future with anyone, it will happen sooner if she starts talking with a licensed therapist about her relationship with dear old Dad. She will never have a life of her own while he's running it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife was sexually active with a classmate in high school. Their relationship lasted until shortly before we were married, 54 years ago. I have often wondered what he did to make her so willing to come to his bed. Perhaps if I knew, I could enhance her pleasure in our lovemaking. However, such information might be injurious to our relationship. What is your take on this? I think about this several times each day.

— OBSESSED IN THE WEST

DEAR OBSESSED: You have, I hope, been happily married for more than half a century. Has it never occurred to you that her high school romance failed because the sex wasn't that great?

If you want to ask your wife at this late date if there is anything you can do to enhance her enjoyment of your lovemaking, by all means do. But do not frame it the way you did to me.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

THE WEST

Exploded device found at Montana school, no injuries

By Amy Beth Hanson
The Associated Press

HELENA, Montana — Authorities found the remnants of a small homemade bomb that blew up in an elementary school playground in Helena on Tuesday morning. No injuries were reported, and it was not immediately clear when the blast occurred in Montana's quiet capital city.

No threat was made against Rossiter Elementary school before the exploded bomb packed in a duct tape-wrapped soda bottle was found, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton said. No suspect or motive was identified.

"There's a lot of unanswered questions," Dutton said. "We're going through it methodically and slowly, so we don't miss something."

School officials discovered remnants from the detonated bomb shortly before classes began for the day, blocked off the area and called police at about 8:20 a.m., Dutton said.

No property damage was reported.

Third-grader Abigail Lee said she saw the remnants near a basketball hoop.

"I didn't get too close of a look because once they came over, I just barely noticed it when they came over, and then they said that we had to get away from that area, just in case," she said. "There was like a dent in the ground."

Police closed the school to search the grounds for additional devices, and thousands of students



Amy Beth Hanson/The Associated Press

Lewis and Clark County Undersheriff Jason Grimmis, left, and Sheriff Leo Dutton, right, update reporters on a homemade bomb that detonated in an elementary school playground on Tuesday in Helena, Montana. Nobody was injured in the explosion, and authorities are searching for additional devices.

across Helena and East Helena were kept inside their schools while authorities swept for bombs outside, authorities said.

The district-wide lockdown was lifted at 11 a.m. "Students will be able to go outside for recess and move back and forth to music and the library," Hawthorne Elementary School principal Deb Jacobsen said in an email to parents.

Searches also were conducted at the state Capitol and government buildings, Dutton said.

Students were evacuated from the school after authorities made sure the path was clear of other devices.

The 490 students walked to a nearby location where they could be picked up by their parents, said Superintendent Tyler Ream. School buses were brought in to keep them warm. Parents were notified via the school's messenger system.

The FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Montana Highway Patrol were assisting sheriff's and Helena police officials in the investigation.

Helena is a small city of about 30,000 people in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The school is in a neighborhood just north of the city's center.

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TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Rain and drizzle late	Cooler with a shower	Turning cloudy, a shower	Spotty showers	Chilly with rain
Baker City Comfort Index™ 10	56 34 2	55 36 2	49 32 0	50 33 0
La Grande Comfort Index™ 10	54 39 2	53 40 1	48 34 0	46 37 0
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 10	52 36 2	50 36 3	46 33 1	45 35 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 Monday	61°	59°	64°
Low Monday	29°	34°	33°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.02	0.07	0.27
Normal month to date	0.24	0.46	0.57
Year to date	7.05	12.58	22.95
Normal year to date	7.86	12.00	16.42

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.5
Evapotranspiration	0.07

RESERVOIR STORAGE	(through midnight Tuesday)
Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	28% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	61% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	34% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	22% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	16% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS	(through midnight Monday)
Grande Ronde at Troy	770 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	16 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	48 cfs
Minam River at Minam	76 cfs
Powder River near Richland	34 cfs

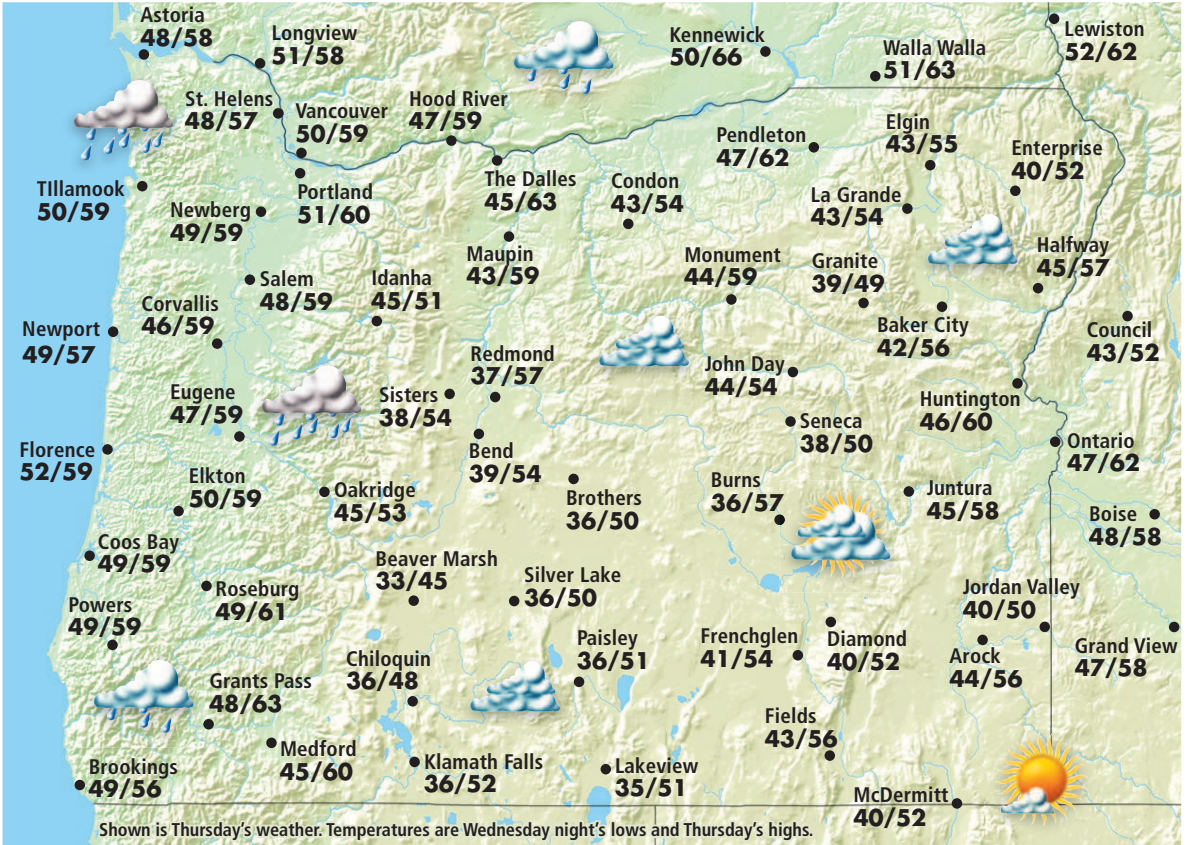
MONDAY EXTREMES	
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 99°	Beeville, Texas
Low: 0°	Granby, Colo.
Wettest: 3.71"	Jasper, Texas
OREGON	
High: 71°	Medford
Low: 21°	Lakeview
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY	
An early blizzard raged across South Dakota and southern Minnesota on Oct. 16, 1880. Drifts blocked railroads. The storm also caused boat-sinking gales on the Great Lakes.	

SUN & MOON	
	WED.
Sunrise	7:09 a.m.
Sunset	6:06 p.m.
Moonrise	7:55 p.m.
Moonset	9:51 a.m.
	THU.
	7:10 a.m.
	6:04 p.m.
	8:29 p.m.
	10:56 a.m.

MOON PHASES			
Last	New	First	Full
			
Oct 21	Oct 27	Nov 4	Nov 12

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



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REGIONAL CITIES	THU.	FRI.	THU.	FRI.	RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	58/45/r	56/45/r	Lewiston	62/46/sh	59/45/c
Bend	54/39/c	52/40/sh	Longview	58/46/r	57/49/r
Boise	58/40/r	57/42/pc	Meacham	51/37/c	49/38/pc
Brookings	56/50/r	58/50/c	Medford	60/44/pc	62/46/r
Burns	57/31/r	52/33/c	Newport	57/47/r	55/48/r
Coos Bay	59/48/r	59/51/r	Olympia	57/43/r	55/44/r
Corvallis	59/42/r	58/47/r	Ontario	62/38/r	60/40/c
Council	52/37/c	50/36/pc	Pasco	67/48/pc	65/48/pc
Elgin	55/40/c	52/40/pc	Pendleton	62/45/c	58/47/c
Eugene	59/45/r	58/48/r	Portland	60/48/r	58/50/r
Hermiston	66/47/pc	63/49/c	Powers	59/48/r	60/49/r
Hood River	58/48/r	58/48/r	Redmond	57/37/c	55/40/sh
Imnaha	55/40/r	53/42/pc	Roseburg	61/48/r	60/50/r
John Day	54/40/c	52/41/c	Salem	59/45/r	58/48/r
Joseph	51/35/c	49/36/pc	Spokane	55/39/c	52/39/c
Kennewick	66/48/pc	63/49/pc	The Dalles	63/46/r	60/47/r
Klamath Falls	52/30/pc	53/34/r	Ukiah	52/37/c	49/39/pc
Lakeview	51/27/s	53/33/pc	Walla Walla	63/46/pc	61/48/c

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

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