

Teen self-conscious about his body hesitates to start dating

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 19-year-old male and suffer from a predicament. Let's just say my "package has been delivered undersized." It is depressing, and it has held me back from going after girls. I decline dates because I feel so self-conscious.

Now, people are starting to ask me why I haven't had a girlfriend yet. The truth is, I'm terrified about the reaction I'll get if I ever end up in the bedroom. I'm still a virgin because of this large (yet small) dilemma. Do you have any advice on what I should do to fix this?

— SMALL PROBLEM
IN THE USA

DEAR SMALL PROBLEM: As a matter of fact, I do. Males (and females, too) come in a variety of sizes, and there is a broad range that defines "normal." Because this bothers you to the extent that you are afraid of a normal social life, pay a visit to your doctor to have an honest discussion.

Size does not necessarily dictate the degree of satisfaction a couple can achieve, and you can take that statement to the bank.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are 70, married 44 years and have one adult child. My wife has four friends she meets for coffee once a month. One of them mentioned at the gathering how proud I am of our son, who has lost 80 pounds due to a disciplined change in his lifestyle.

My wife was embarrassed that I told her friend. I thought it was a good thing. My wife said it made her look bad in the eyes of her friends, who all portray their children as without-blemish-perfect. I told my wife I thought she was very insecure. I am confused about her reaction. Can you give me any insight?

— IT'S A GOOD THING
DEAR GOOD THING: You did nothing wrong. Your son's achievement is significant and to be applauded. Your wife may have preferred her friends not know that her son had a severe weight problem, although if they are all "good" friends and any of them had seen him, it would have been obvious. Not knowing your wife, I can't offer more insight than that.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for only a few months, and I think he is already losing interest. He has stopped saying I love you and hasn't kissed me or given me any affection in weeks. I'm afraid he is falling out of love with me, although I have done everything possible to keep the love flowing. Am I doing something wrong, or am I becoming unattractive? Please tell me what to do, Abby. I really want to save this marriage.

— DESPERATE WIFE

DEAR DESPERATE: Rather than try to read your husband's mind or guess the reason for his change in behavior, ask him calmly about it. His change in behavior may have nothing to do with you or the state of your marriage. He may be stressed about something, but you will never know unless you ask.

DEAR ABBY: I have a grocery store etiquette question. I become really offended when I'm unloading my groceries onto the conveyor belt at checkout and — before I'm finished — another shopper comes up behind me and begins unloading hers. It leaves me not enough room to finish unloading mine! I think it's rude, and it baffles me that so many people do it. Is it impolite to tell them they are being rude? Or is it dangerous these days?

— GOING AS FAST AS I CAN

DEAR GOING: It wouldn't be impolite or dangerous to tell the person behind you that you haven't finished unloading your purchases and to please stop. I do, however, think you should suppress the urge to lecture the person about manners unless you're looking for an argument.

If this happens often, talk to the store manager about it. In some businesses there is a mark on the floor indicating where shoppers should stand while waiting for the person ahead to complete his or her purchase.

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

Alien grasses are making more frequent US wildfires

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For much of the United States, invasive grass species are making wildfires more frequent, especially in fire-prone California, a new study finds.

Twelve non-native species act as "little arsonist grasses," said study co-author Bethany Bradley, a University of Massachusetts professor of environmental conservation.

Wherever the common Mediterranean grass invades, including California's southern desert, fires flare up three times more often. And cheatgrass, which covers about one-third of the Intermountain West, is a big-time fire promoter, Bradley said.

"I would not be surprised at all if invasive grasses are playing a role in the current fires but I don't think we can attribute to them directly," Bradley said.

University of Utah fire expert Phil Dennison, who wasn't part of the study but says it makes sense, said, "In a lot of ways, California was ground zero for invasive grasses. Much of California's native perennial grassland was replaced by Mediterranean annual grasses over a century ago. This study doesn't look at invasive grasses in the areas that are burning in California, but invasive grasses are contributing to the fires there."

Experts say the areas burning now in California



The Associated Press file photo

This 2005 photo provided by Bethany Bradley shows cheatgrass, at right, invading shrubs, left, near Lovelock, Nev. A new study finds that for much of the United States, invasive grass species, such as cheatgrass, are making wildfires more frequent, especially in fire-prone California.

are more shrubs and grasses than forests, despite what President Donald Trump tweeted over the weekend. "This is a global problem," said University of Alberta fire expert Mike Flannigan, who wasn't part of the study but said it makes sense. "I think with climate change and human assistance we are moving to a grass world. One region they should have mentioned is Hawaii where wildfires are increasing in large part due to invasive grasses."

Invasive species are spreading more because of climate change as warmer weather moves into new areas, said study lead author Emily Fusco, also of the University of Massachusetts. New England and the Mid-Atlantic are seeing new

invasive and more flammable grasses, Bradley said. The study in Monday's journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences looks at the connections between a dozen species of invasive grasses and fires nationwide, finding fires occur more often in places with the non-native grasses. But the study did not find a link between invasive grasses and the size of the fires. Four of these species, including cheatgrass and common Mediterranean grass, are in California. These grasses get dry and then watch out, Fusco said. "When you start a fire normally you want kindling," Fusco said. "The grasses are, more or less, like kindling."

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	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	Partly cloudy and cold	Times of clouds and sun	Sun mixing with clouds	Partly sunny and mild	Partial sunshine
Baker City	21	55 26	61 26	59 29	59 24
Comfort Index™	9	7	8	10	8
La Grande	24	54 32	59 35	61 36	57 29
Comfort Index™	6	6	8	10	9
Enterprise	24	53 31	58 34	58 35	54 28
Comfort Index™	7	7	10	10	8

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	MONDAY EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Monday	61°	56°	56°
Low Monday	20°	20°	23°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.11	0.26	0.34
Year to date	7.14	13.10	25.85
Normal year to date	8.36	13.09	17.89

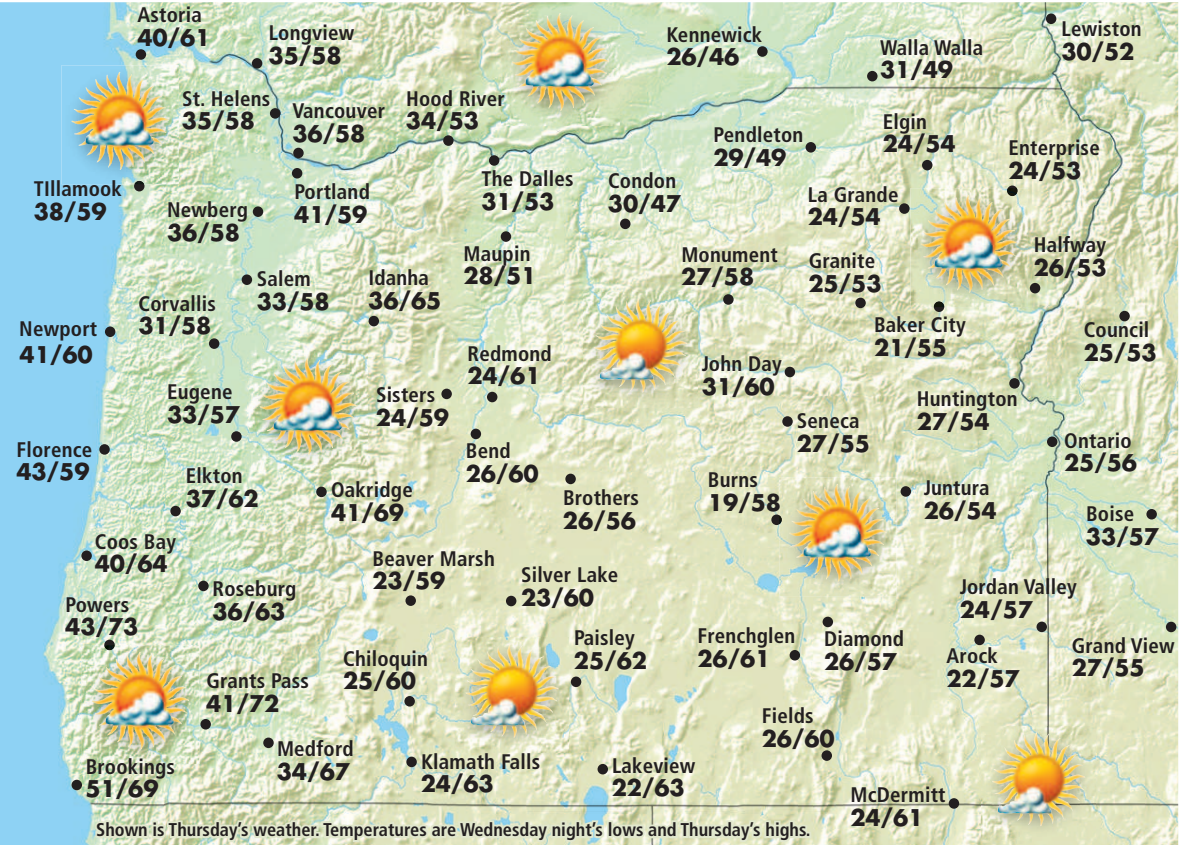
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY		
Lowest relative humidity			35%
Afternoon wind		SSE at 7 to 14 mph	
Hours of sunshine			6.6
Evapotranspiration			0.06
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)			
Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	30% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	62% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	26% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	27% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	32% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	788 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	12 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	355 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	95 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	32 cfs		

MONDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 91°		San Angelo, Texas	
Low: 4°		Lake George, Colo.	
Wettest: 4.84"		Cape Canaveral, Fla.	
OREGON			
High: 72°		Bend	
Low: 18°		Burns	
Wettest: none			

WEATHER HISTORY			
On Nov. 6, 1953, a coastal storm brought 3 inches of snow to Richmond, Va., and up to 18 inches to Philadelphia. Wind gusts reached 98 mph at Block Island, R.I.			
SUN & MOON			
Sunrise	6:38 a.m.	6:39 a.m.	
Sunset	4:33 p.m.	4:32 p.m.	
Moonrise	2:35 p.m.	2:58 p.m.	
Moonset	12:25 a.m.	1:27 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
Full	Last	New	First
			
Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W	City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	61/41/c	61/43/pc	Lewiston	52/34/pc	57/38/pc
Bend	60/32/pc	70/38/c	Longview	58/39/c	61/41/c
Boise	57/32/pc	58/35/s	Meacham	52/31/pc	57/35/c
Brookings	69/50/pc	69/47/c	Medford	67/35/pc	70/38/s
Burns	58/20/pc	63/23/s	Newport	60/44/c	61/43/pc
Coos Bay	64/40/pc	62/43/c	Olympia	57/33/c	61/39/pc
Corvallis	58/32/c	64/37/c	Ontario	56/25/pc	57/28/s
Council	53/30/pc	58/34/s	Pasco	49/26/pc	53/32/pc
Elgin	54/31/pc	58/35/pc	Pendleton	49/30/pc	55/36/c
Eugene	57/34/c	64/37/c	Portland	59/39/c	62/42/pc
Hermiston	48/28/pc	53/33/c	Powers	73/44/pc	72/45/c
Hood River	53/37/pc	58/41/c	Redmond	61/27/pc	73/33/c
Imnaha	58/37/pc	64/40/c	Roseburg	63/38/pc	70/41/c
John Day	60/35/pc	64/38/s	Salem	58/34/c	62/39/pc
Joseph	53/32/c	59/35/s	Spokane	47/31/pc	51/36/pc
Kennewick	46/28/pc	51/34/c	The Dalles	53/31/pc	56/36/c
Klamath Falls	63/25/pc	67/25/s	Ukiah	56/29/pc	61/33/c
Lakeview	63/26/pc	67/25/s	Walla Walla	49/33/c	54/39/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Partly sunny	42 25	PHILLIPS LAKE Periods of sun	53 26
MT. EMILY REC. Partly sunny	48 32	BROWNLEE RES. Partly sunny	56 32
EAGLE CAP WILD. Partly sunny	41 21	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Partly sunny	51 29
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly cloudy	53 32	MCKAY RESERVOIR Partly sunny	51 32
THIEF VALLEY RES. Partly sunny	55 26	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Partly sunny	54 32

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