

Mom on fixed income supports a house full of freeloaders

DEAR ABBY: My grandson, his girlfriend and, recently, my son (who had to move in) are living with me. She is the only one working.

My grandson has been sitting on his butt the last 2 1/2 years and does minimal work here in my home. All three of these “adults” live here for free. I am 79 and on a fixed income. I pay for everything.

They were supposed to be saving money so they could get a place of their own. That’s a big joke. All they do is spend, spend, spend. They sleep all day and play games on their computers all night. I have seriously considered shutting off the internet (which I pay for) to see what they would do.

I have been talking to a counselor due to my stress and anger issues. The counselor has strongly advised me to evict them.

My daughter told me if I do, I’ll never see her or my two young grandchildren again. She means it.

I’m tired of being the caregiver. I feel used, but can’t set boundaries very well. I’m also afraid of my 24-year-old grandson, who has terrible anger issues and who put his fist through a wall when I called him lazy.

Should I put them out or, to keep peace in the family, continue to let them use me?

— USED UP

DEAR USED UP: There will never be peace in your family as long as you allow yourself to be held hostage by threats and intimidation. Your anger and boundary issues will resolve themselves if you act on the advice your therapist is giving you and evict these parasites.

First, discuss this with a lawyer to see what steps you must take, and because you fear your grandson will become violent, you may need help from the authorities to guarantee your safety from him when he goes.

As to your daughter, I predict she’ll keep the grandchildren from you only until she needs something — so be prepared. And please, continue talking to your therapist, who seems to have more of your interests at heart than your family members.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are in our mid-40s with two kids (9 and 6). We are in the early stages of our estate planning, and of course the topic of who would look after our kids has been discussed.

Our first choice has lovingly agreed to have our kids join their family if my wife and I should die.

However, many estate planning forms ask if there is a secondary option on who we want to be our children’s guardians in case our primary choice can no longer fulfill that role. How do we tactfully ask our second choice if they are willing to be the backup? I worry that the couple may be offended that

they aren’t No. 1, and this may cause tension and seriously damage our relationship with them.

— PARENTS IN A PREDICAMENT

DEAR PARENTS: Do not offer apologies or explanations unless you must. Simply ask the backups if they would be willing to step in “should the need arise.” If you are pressed about why they are not your first choice, answer honestly.

Your reasons should be respected. This is not a popularity contest; it is a serious consideration for the future of your children.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I live quite far from town and spend a lot of time in the car — usually his. He bought some air fresheners for his car, which made me nauseated and gave me headaches. I asked him to please remove them, but he refused because he doesn’t want to waste the \$2.50. He said he likes the smell.

Abby, we have two other vehicles we can take. I felt it was such a small thing he could do to make me feel better. He doesn’t agree. What is your opinion on the matter?

— STUNK UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR STUNK: You may be allergic to something in that air freshener, which is why you got the headache and became nauseated.

Asking your boyfriend to remove it was a small thing — not like asking him to remove a limb. If he were less self-centered and more considerate, he would have accommodated you.

In my opinion, you should take one of the other cars when you drive together.

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weather



TONIGHT

Rather cloudy and colder

Baker City **32**

Comfort Index™ **2**



FRI

Mostly cloudy

Baker City **68 36**

Comfort Index™ **10**



SAT

A morning shower in spots

Baker City **72 41**

Comfort Index™ **9**



SUN

Cooler with a bit of rain

Baker City **59 30**

Comfort Index™ **6**



MON

Chance of a shower

Baker City **61 30**

Comfort Index™ **9**

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES

Baker City La Grande Elgin

High Tuesday 75° 74° 77°

Low Tuesday 34° 40° 37°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Tuesday 0.00 0.00 0.00

Month to date 0.09 0.62 1.20

Normal month to date 0.78 1.47 1.86

Year to date 0.88 6.23 19.53

Normal year to date 3.00 5.74 9.64

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity 35%

Afternoon wind S at 4 to 8 mph

Hours of sunshine 0.6

Evapotranspiration 0.11

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir 42% of capacity

Unity Reservoir 99% of capacity

Owyhee Reservoir 84% of capacity

McKay Reservoir 99% of capacity

Wallowa Lake 79% of capacity

Thief Valley Reservoir 95% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy 7740 cfs

Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder 59 cfs

Burnt River near Unity 282 cfs

Umatilla River near Gibbon 1170 cfs

Minam River at Minam 982 cfs

Powder River near Richland 126 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 111° Death Valley, Calif.

Low: 21° Gothic, Colo.

Wettest: 2.36" Mount Ida, Ark.

OREGON

High: 82° Medford

Low: 31° Crater Lake

Wettest: 0.01" North Bend

WEATHER HISTORY

Several snowstorms hit the mid-Atlantic in April 1857. The cold kept many plants dormant; even by April 30, no blossoms were seen in northern New Jersey.

SUN & MOON

THU. FRI.

Sunrise 5:42 a.m. 5:40 a.m.

Sunset 7:58 p.m. 7:59 p.m.

Moonrise 11:38 a.m. 12:51 p.m.

Moonset 2:23 a.m. 3:03 a.m.

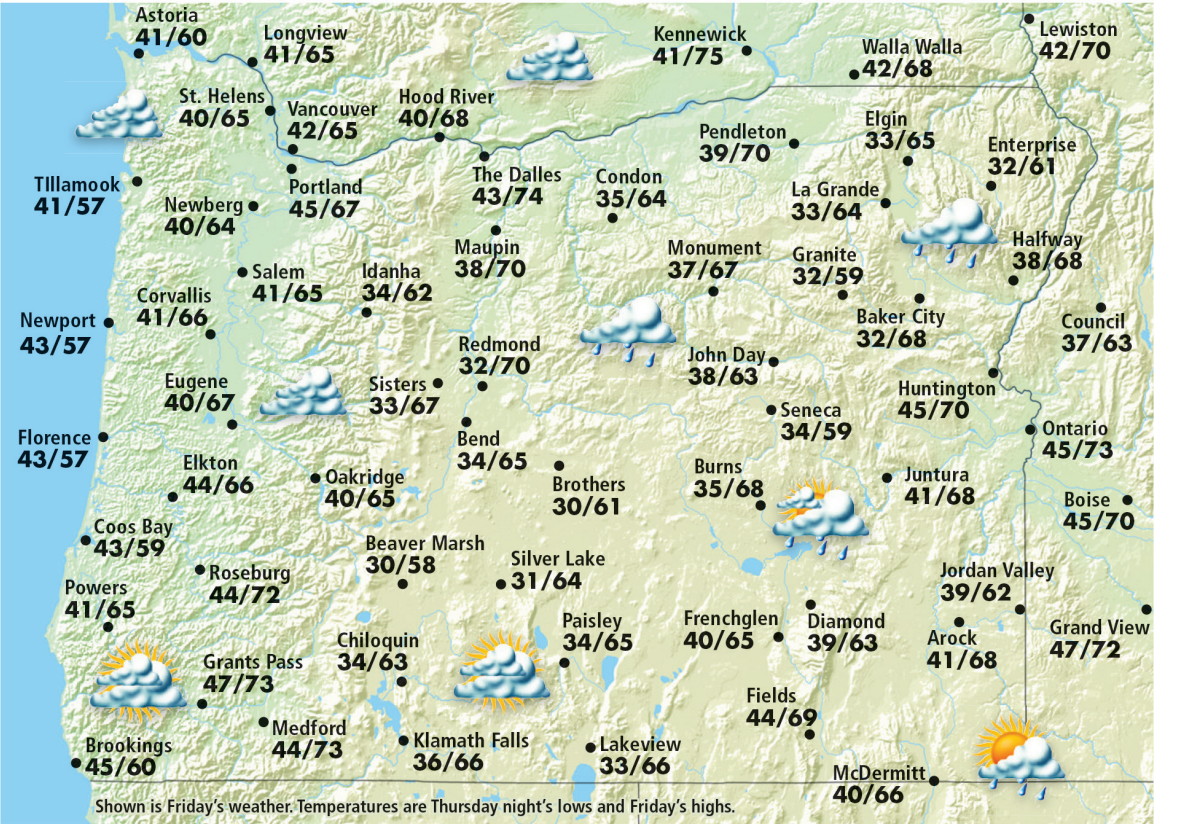
MOON PHASES

First Full Last New

Apr 30 May 7 May 14 May 22

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday night's lows and Friday's highs.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	60/47/c	58/44/r
Bend	65/39/c	66/37/sh
Boise	70/47/pc	75/49/pc
Brookings	60/51/c	57/47/r
Burns	68/37/c	69/40/c
Coos Bay	59/48/pc	59/43/r
Corvallis	66/48/c	61/45/r
Council	63/36/c	69/44/c
Elgin	65/38/c	69/41/c
Eugene	67/47/c	63/45/r
Hermiston	74/43/pc	79/49/c
Hood River	68/44/c	65/44/sh
Imnaha	64/41/c	70/45/t
John Day	63/37/c	70/37/c
Joseph	60/35/c	64/38/pc
Kennewick	75/44/pc	79/49/c
Klamath Falls	66/36/pc	63/41/pc
Lakeview	66/36/c	64/38/pc
Lewiston	70/46/pc	73/49/c
Longview	65/45/c	59/42/r
Meacham	62/36/c	67/39/c
Medford	73/47/pc	69/47/pc
Newport	57/50/c	56/46/r
Olympia	66/45/c	59/41/r
Ontario	73/44/pc	78/49/pc
Pasco	76/44/pc	78/49/c
Pendleton	70/44/pc	74/46/c
Portland	67/49/c	62/48/sh
Powers	65/47/c	60/42/r
Redmond	70/39/pc	68/42/pc
Roseburg	72/50/pc	66/48/r
Salem	65/48/c	60/45/r
Spokane	64/42/pc	68/44/c
The Dalles	74/47/pc	71/49/c
Ukiah	62/34/pc	66/37/c
Walla Walla	68/47/c	73/46/c

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Mainly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
42 27	60 34
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
51 35	67 39
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Mainly cloudy	Milder
49 29	58 32
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny
60 35	69 42
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy
68 36	64 38

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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