

Single woman fears she may never be a wife and mother



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I am a 31-year-old woman who has been in many relationships since high school. No engagements, however, although four of the men mentioned they wanted to marry me. I lived with three of them.

I'm a former model, have almost completed my second master's degree and hold a steady government job. I don't understand why I feel so depressed just

because no one has ever wanted to marry me. I have wanted kids my entire life and thought I would have three before I was 30. Now I cry every day thinking how I may never be in a relationship with anyone who will love me enough to marry me, or have kids with me because marriage never happened.

I have a college fund set up for my "future" children and have done everything in my life to prepare to be a mom. I paid off my student loans early, got a car that was perfect for car seats and a dog that's a good breed for kids. I just don't know where to turn next. — **Yearsns To Be Wife/Mom**

Dear Yearsns: You seem to be a nice, accomplished woman with traditional values. Could it be possible that you are so focused on getting married that you have chased away your suitors? From what you have written, you may have put the cart before the horse. Allow a relationship to play out naturally before focusing on a rush to the altar.

Although you yearn for marriage before maternity, it's important you don't forget there may be other options. Marriage isn't in the cards for everyone. Some single women focus on their careers and/or adopt children who

need loving homes. You could be one of them if you expand your horizons.

Dear Abby: I am currently struggling with a difficult parent. Actually, I have struggled with this relationship as far back as I can remember. My parent can be extremely hurtful and nasty at times, and when it happens, I feel stripped naked. I become almost paralyzed with pain and can barely stomach being in the same room with this person. Please help me find a way to handle these episodes appropriately with some level of functionality. I'm in my 50s now and in menopause, which

is making everything more difficult. — **Sad Beyond Words**

Dear Sad: This isn't a new problem; it's a very old one. Ask yourself what this person has to offer you other than more abuse. Warn your parent that you will no longer tolerate being treated the way you have been, and the moment it starts, leave the premises or hang up the phone. Repeat your message if/when it happens again, and do not go back for more abuse. This is called drawing the line (better late than never) and protecting yourself. If apologies are offered, fine. If not, you are free.

CADDIS

Continued from Page B1

turned up around 1922. Little did Troth know that his caddis pattern would go on to imitate virtually any species of caddis, as well as some stoneflies. A truly revolutionary fly.

Dry-fly fishing — fishing flies on the water surface — is thought to be the pinnacle of trout angling. Norman McClean's "A River Runs Through It," centered in Missoula, Montana, sensationalized fly-fishing, invigorating the



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo
A glorious pool prime for drifting a fluffy, high-floating caddis for wild trout.

fishing world to take up the sport. McClean's wit suggested purity in fishing dry flies through biblical reference, saying "Our father was a Presbyterian minister and a fly-fisherman who tied his own flies and taught others. He told us about Christ's disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly-fishermen and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman."

While anyone can fish dry-flies, sans the pretention, there are arguably few other flies or fly-

fishing methods that compare to charming wild trout with an elk hair caddis.

A creamy puff of elk rump bobs on a dead-drift, cascading into the head of a mountain stream pool. Unable to resist the temptation, a muscly rainbow with a cotton-candy pink lateral stripe rockets to the surface, engulfing the fly in an eager splash as it drifts over the emerald depths. A quick flip of the wrist sets the hook, and the fight ensues.

Admiring the remarkable hues of salmonid perfection from

the clear, cold cascades is what dreams are made of. Dreams that can be reality for anyone willing to chase them with an elk hair caddis, July being a fine month on streams like the Wallowa River, Umatilla and Walla Walla.

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GREENHORNS

Continued from Page B1

Yet though the Greenhorns lack the sort of signature precipitous peak or limpid lake that distinguishes other parts of the Blues, the range is, at least to my eye, not so dissimilar from its nearest neighbor, the Elkhorns.

The area around Vinegar Hill, for instance, with its slopes of fleecyflower and sage, its clumps of white-bark pines and subalpine firs, could adequately fill in for places in the Elkhorns as the backdrop for a film.

The Greenhorns are geologic siblings to the Elkhorns as well, a mixture of ancient sedimentary rocks and granitic outcrops. In both ranges the boundary between these strata were prime places to dig for gold, and the Greenhorns, like the Elkhorns, were scoured thoroughly by miners.

One exception to this kinship of stone is also the source of the Greenhorns' name.

Serpentine, a rock with a distinctive green shade and smooth, almost greasy, texture, is rare in the Elkhorns but prevalent in the east part of the Greenhorns.

IF YOU GO

Start by driving Highway 7 south of Baker City for 49 miles to the Middle Fork John Day Road (Grant County Road 20), turning right at a sign for Bates State Park. Drive west on Road 20 for a little more than eight miles, then turn right on Forest Service Road 4550 (there's a black mailbox on the left side of Road 20 at the intersection). Drive Road 4550, which passes beneath cliffs of a conglomerate formation, for 1.6 miles to a junction, where Road 4550 heads left and crosses Granite Boulder Creek. Continue straight on Road 4559 for 1.9 miles. Just before the road crosses the creek, there's a pullout on the left, and a green gate with a sign noting that the route is closed to motor vehicles.

A prominent knob made mostly of serpentine — a feature just east of Vinegar Hill that 19th century miners christened as the Green Horn — lent its name both to the surrounding mountains and to its largest mining community, Greenhorn.

My wife, Lisa and I, accompanied by our kids, Olivia and Max, spent the weekend of July 10 and 11 camped at Deerhorn campground, on the banks of the Middle Fork about five miles downriver from Highway 7.

On Sunday morning, July 11, we hiked a route I've wanted to try for more than 30 years, since I first read about it in William L. Sullivan's classic "Listening For Coyote," the account of his 1,300-mile solo backpack trip across Oregon in 1985.

In the book, Sullivan describes ascending the Greenhorns by way of the Tempest mine. He writes about the 4,000 feet of elevation he gained — a challenge that tapped his daily allotment of 15 pieces of hard candy — but we sampled only a 2.5-mile section that doesn't include the steep grades Sullivan climbed.

The "trail" is in fact the remnants of the road that leads to the Tempest mine, following Granite Boulder Creek most of the way.

We started hiking around 10 a.m., in deference to the infernal heat that has marked this summer. Although major wildfires denuded much of the forests on the southern slopes of the Greenhorns over the past quarter century or so, the canyon of Granite Boulder Creek is unscathed.

The mature forest of ponderosa pine, tamarack, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce cast shade across the road, and it was pleasantly cool.

It's a relatively easy hike. Besides being much wider than a typical trail — four people could walk abreast in most places — it's also well-maintained. We walked between the cut ends of several freshly sawed logs that, had they been intact, would have posed considerable obstacles.

About half a mile from the trailhead — actually it's just a wide spot in the access road — the road crosses Lemon Creek. There's no bridge, but we had no trouble getting across the diminutive stream with dry feet.

(Keeping our feet out of the piles of fresh cattle dung was a bit more of a challenge.)

Our main goal was Lemon Cabin, about 1.9 miles from the trailhead. It's a typical miners shack, although rather larger than most I've seen, with two connected sections, one slightly lower than the other.

The logs are large, too — some better than two

feet around. I can scarcely imagine the toil involved in felling them, and then hacking out the notches, all without gas-powered equipment.

Just beyond the cabin the road crosses Granite Boulder Creek on a bridge.

Or, rather, the remnants of a bridge. There are two logs, butting against each other, and one has been cut flat to make for surer footing.

We continued up the canyon, on slightly steeper grades, for about half a mile to the crossing of Blackeye Creek, another chilly stream about the

same size as Lemon Creek.

From Blackeye Creek it's another 3.5 miles or so — and more than 1,500 feet of elevation — to the Tempest mine.

We had neither the time nor the energy to go that far.

Which is not to say we were in a rush.

We were quite happy to stop occasionally to pick huckleberries. Most had yet to ripen, but in a few weeks there should be a bounty.

Which makes it possible to take a Blue Mountains hike in the Greenhorns with purple fingers.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Clear	Hazy sun and very warm	A thunderstorm around	Mostly sunny	Sunny and nice
Baker City	51	98 55	90 54	93 53	94 50
La Grande	59	96 60	91 61	90 56	89 55
Enterprise	55	96 60	90 62	89 55	93 53

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 Thursday	90°	92°	94°
Low Thursday	54°	68°	53°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.00	0.29
Normal month to date	0.36	0.40	0.41
Year to date	2.44	5.93	15.27
Normal year to date	6.07	9.74	14.08

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	20%
Afternoon wind	NNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	9.8
Evapotranspiration	0.30

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	58% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	33% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	66% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	23% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	39% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	583 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	115 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	92 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	41 cfs
Minam River at Minam	163 cfs
Powder River near Richland	26 cfs

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 119°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 33°	Leadville, Colo.
Wettest: 3.36"	Manhattan, Kan.
OREGON	
High: 101°	Ontario
Low: 41°	Sunriver
Wettest: Trace	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

Excessive rain hit north-central Pennsylvania in the early morning hours of July 17, 1942. Smethport received 30.8 inches in 4.5 hours, a state record.

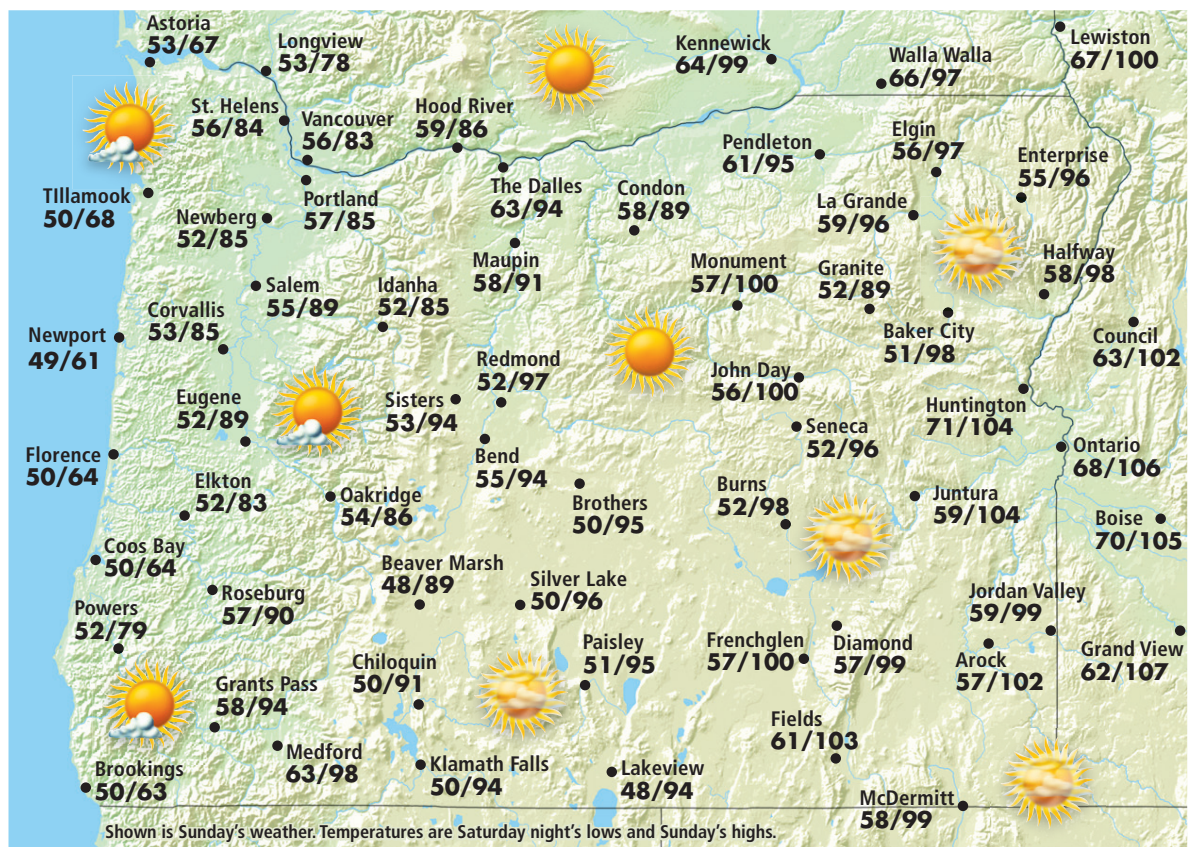
SUN & MOON

	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	5:21 a.m.	5:22 a.m.
Sunset	8:36 p.m.	8:35 p.m.
Moonrise	1:46 p.m.	3:03 p.m.
Moonset	12:19 a.m.	12:43 a.m.

MOON PHASES			
First	Full	Last	New
Jul 17	Jul 23	Jul 31	Aug 8

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	67/52/pc	68/56/s	Lewiston	100/71/pc	96/72/pc
Bend	94/58/s	93/56/pc	Longview	78/51/s	78/54/s
Boise	105/77/pc	96/73/pc	Meacham	94/57/pc	90/59/pc
Brookings	63/52/s	63/51/s	Medford	98/64/s	94/62/pc
Burns	98/58/pc	92/58/pc	Newport	61/49/s	61/52/pc
Coos Bay	64/50/s	64/53/s	Olympia	80/48/s	80/52/s
Corvallis	85/52/s	85/53/s	Ontario	106/75/pc	97/73/pc
Council	102/66/pc	92/61/pc	Pasco	100/63/s	98/68/pc
Elgin	97/57/pc	90/59/pc	Pendleton	95/65/s	92/68/pc
Eugene	89/52/s	88/53/s	Portland	85/56/s	84/57/s
Hermiston	98/70/s	98/73/pc	Powers	79/54/s	78/54/pc
Hood River	86/63/s	88/65/s	Redmond	97/55/s	94/55/pc
Imnaha	102/69/pc	98/68/pc	Roseburg	90/57/s	89/57/s
John Day	100/64/pc	93/61/t	Salem	89/54/s	87/55/s
Joseph	97/62/pc	90/61/pc	Spokane	95/67/pc	93/69/pc
Kennewick	99/65/s	97/71/pc	The Dalles	94/66/s	92/68/pc
Klamath Falls	94/52/pc	92/52/pc	Ukiah	91/53/pc	85/49/t
Lakeview	94/53/pc	89/54/pc	Walla Walla	97/70/pc	93/71/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Hazy sun	Hot with hazy sun
67 50	93 54
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Hazy sun	Hot with hazy sun
83 59	103 71
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Warm with hazy sun	Hazy sunshine
78 51	86 44
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Hazy sun and hot	Plenty of sunshine
97 62	94 65
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Hazy sun; very hot	Warm with hazy sun
98 55	96 60