

# Online relationship blossoms for older woman



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

**Dear Abby:** Two years ago, I met a wonderful man online. He's from Wales in the U.K. He's 21 years younger than I am, so, naturally, I'm cautious about how our relationship will hold up through the years. (He's 42; I'm 63.) He says I am everything he's dreamed of, and more. He's non-judgmental, kind, sweet and very witty. His intelligence amazes me. I love and respect him more than

any person I have ever known. Is it possible to have a long-lasting relationship when there is this kind of age difference? — **Found Mr. Wonderful**  
**Dear Found:** It is possible, but it is unusual. If you know this person only online, I caution you to get to know him, his family and his friends in person before making any formal commitments. I say this because he may not actually be the person he is representing himself to be, and women in your situation have been taken advantage of. This man may be married. Because of this, you should never send him

money, even if it's only a "temporary loan."  
**Dear Abby:** My sister is the worship leader at our church, but I sometimes fill in for her. When I do, I receive a lot of compliments in the form of comparing the two of us. For example, "Your sister is great, but I like it better when you sing." It makes me uncomfortable because I want us both to do well in life. I have no desire to outshine my sister. How can I correct this when it happens without shaming the person? — **Embarrassed in Aurora**  
**Dear Embarrassed:** Make a list of things your sister does

better than you in her capacity as worship leader. Then respond to the compliment by saying, "Thanks for the kind words, but my sister is better than I am at ...," and mention several of them.  
**Dear Abby:** I have been married for 22 years but I have a strong affection for my male best friend, "Ryder." He's extremely easy on the eyes, so much so that even strangers comment on how handsome he is. Sometimes we nap together and take turns being the big spoon. Occasionally, he will put his tongue in my ear, and I think it's cute. My husband is OK with it and shows

no signs of jealousy. I'm pretty sure my feelings are reciprocated because when Ryder looks at me with those big brown eyes, it's as though he is shooting love daggers my way, and he winks at me often.  
Next week my husband and I are having eye exams. Would it be too much to ask him to get colored contacts to match our German shepherd? — **Diana in California**  
**Dear Diana:** That's a dog-gone good question. Since your husband hasn't objected to the spooning and the licking, I'm sure he would fur-give you.

## RIVER

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road was almost wholly in shade thanks to the dense forest on the sunward south side.  
We started up the trail and my trepidation about whether this would become one of those ordeals was completely replaced, within a quarter mile, by elation. It was one of the more enjoyable trails I've hiked in years, the more so because I hadn't expected anything like it.  
My wife, Lisa, shared my affinity for the route.  
Our kids, Olivia, 14, and Max, 10, weren't exactly entranced by the setting, but they didn't complain.  
As is common with roads that follow a stream, this one climbs at gentle grades interspersed with essentially flat sections.  
We had to clamber over half a dozen or so logs, but many times more than that have been cut over the years.  
Although I suspect decade might be the more appropriate measuring stick. Based on the height of some of the lodgepole pines and grand firs growing in the road bed — 20 feet or more — I don't think it's likely that motor vehicles wider than motorcycles have frequently gone this way since the Reagan administration.

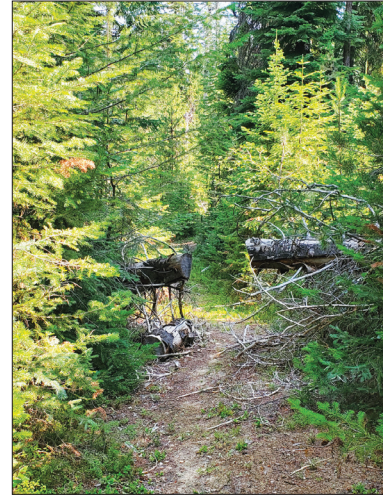


Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

**Logs and other woody debris have been placed in the upper Grande Ronde River to create habitat for salmon and steelhead. This site is just downstream from Spool Cart campground, about four miles south of Starkey.**

Also many of the logs, including ones that have faded to the light gray that suggests a considerable span of time since the tree fell, were cut so as to admit passage of hikers but not nearly with enough width to accommodate a rig.  
I was quite taken with the canyon the east fork has carved over the millennia.  
Although the nearest official wilderness is about a dozen miles away — the North Fork John Day — this canyon felt as "wild" to me as places whose untrammeled nature has congressional approval.  
The trees contribute much to this sensation.  
It is a classic Blue Mountains mixed conifer forest. The canyon

runs generally east-west, so one side is a south-facing slope, the other north-facing. These two aspects, as foresters call them, tend to produce the most dramatic differences, and so it is along the Grande Ronde's east fork.  
The south slope (which, confusingly enough, rises north of the river) is a less crowded stand dominated in places by old-growth ponderosa pines and tamaraks — the pine in particular a species that thrives on south slopes which are sunnier, hotter and drier than most firs prefer.  
In the strip of relatively flat ground that straddles the stream, the water-loving Engelmann spruce is common, with its stiff, prickly, blue-tinged needles. Per-



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

**The road along the east fork of the Grande Ronde River has become a narrow trail over many years, but users continue to cut fallen logs to keep the route accessible.**

haps no other conifer in the Blues is easier to identify, whether by sight or by touch.  
On the north-facing slopes, which are in shade for much longer each day and thus more damp, the trees grow closer together and with greater variety — tamaraks and grand firs, Douglas-firs and lodgepole pines.  
In a few places the trail (or road that once was) rounded a ridge end or reached some other piece of higher ground that briefly opened a glimpse higher into the canyon. Here, where the view was measured in miles rather than feet, the true expanse of the forest, far out of sight of asphalt or shingled roof, was more apparent, more potent. I define wilderness less by acts of Congress than by my own imagination, which ponders the challenge of getting around without a well-trodden path to follow, where no cut butts of logs show where people, and their saws, once passed.  
Yet for all its primeval character, the highlight of the canyon, in my eyes (and ears) is the river.  
Here the Grande Ronde seemed not even a distant cousin of the stream in whose mild, slack water I had waded only hours before.  
The east fork is a mountain stream, as crystalline as fine glass, as chilly as a soda out of the refrigerator.  
We stopped for a rest and a snack where the trail runs close to the river. I dipped my palm into the water and splashed it on my sweaty forehead, which instantly went numb. I would not enjoy wading there.  
That evening at home I found online a document from the Bonneville Power Administration that references the east fork of the Grande Ronde. The federal agency, which sells power produced at dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, wants to pay the Wallowa-Whitman, to add "wood structures" to the reach of the east fork where I had so recently

frozen my fevered brow.  
"Structures" seems to me an inapt term, more suggestive of blueprints than is warranted. Nobody is planning to hammer anything together up in that remote canyon. The structures will consist of logs and branches felled there and placed in the channel (by mini excavators, according to the document, an internal combustion aid not allowed in official wilderness) to create pools and other habitat beneficial to fish.  
The Grande Ronde's east fork harbors chinook salmon, steelhead and redband trout, all species that need cold, clear water.  
Work in the east fork and in two other Grande Ronde tributaries — Upper Fly and Squaw creeks — would be a continuation of a project, dating to the 1990s and focusing on the upper Grande Ronde basin. The Wallowa-Whitman, with assistance from multiple agencies as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, has done similar work — placing what's known as "large woody debris" in the river channel — along the mainstem, including one logjam next to our campsite at Spool Cart.  
(Work is also ongoing downriver, along Highway 244 near the Bird Track Springs campground.)  
I'm no salmon — there's my aversion to chilly water, along with the absence of gills and scales — but I suspect any anadromous fish that has battled upstream from the Pacific would find the east fork of the Grande Ronde a hospitable sanctuary.  
It's cold anyway.  
We turned back after a couple miles, not far short of the confluence of the east fork and Little Meadow Creek, according to my map.  
The map also shows that the east fork heads a couple miles farther to the east, where no roads or trails go.  
As goals go this strikes me as a fine one, to find the spot where that frigid water begins its long and tortuous journey.

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**weather**

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A couple of showers late	A thunderstorm around	Clouds and sun; pleasant	Partly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and pleasant
Baker City	62	79 60	81 51	86 53	85 50
La Grande	66	80 65	83 58	86 59	87 58
Enterprise	61	76 59	79 57	84 59	85 58

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.

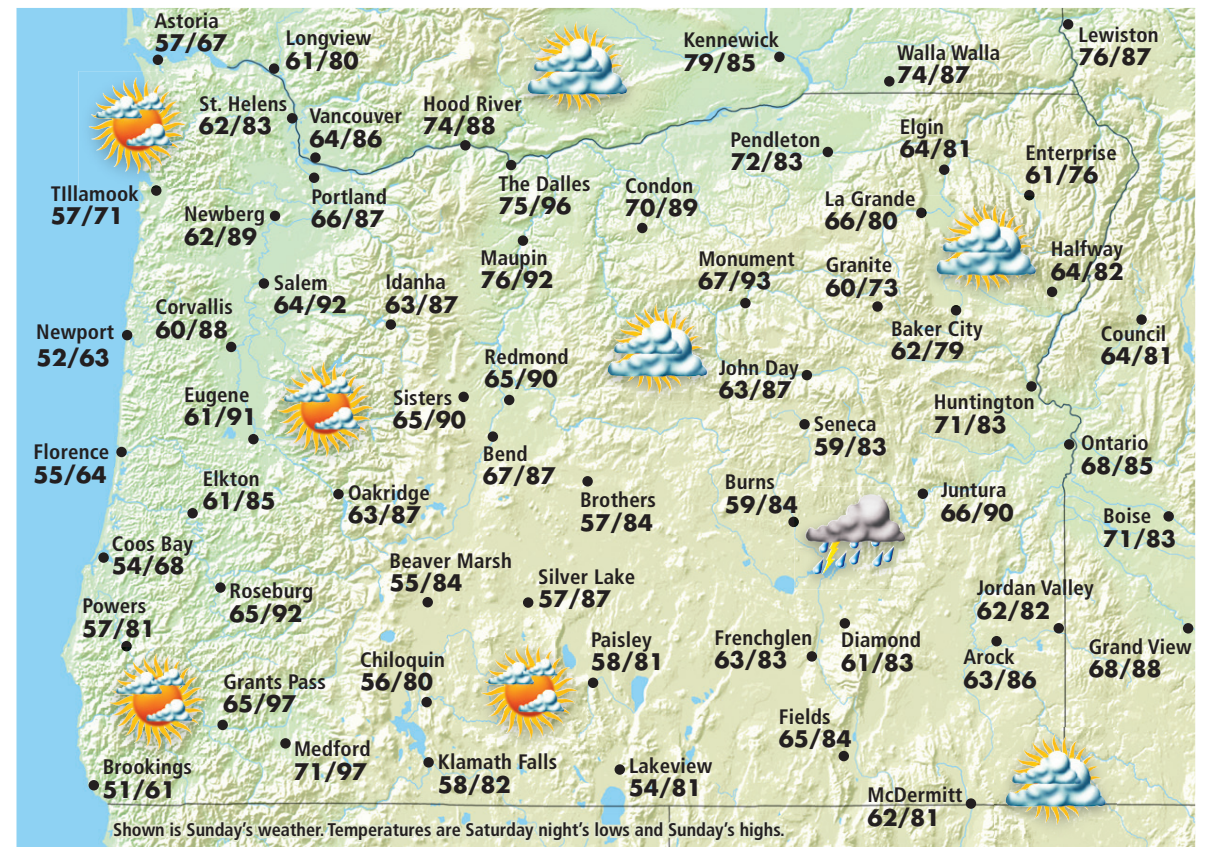
ALMANAC		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande
High Thursday	97°	101°
Low Thursday	54°	61°
PRECIPITATION (inches)		
Thursday	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	Trace
Normal month to date	0.52	0.57
Year to date	2.44	5.93
Normal year to date	5.96	10.63

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY		
Lowest relative humidity	50%	
Afternoon wind	W at 4 to 8 mph	
Hours of sunshine	1.0	
Evapotranspiration	0.15	
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)		
Phillips Reservoir	4% of capacity	
Unity Reservoir	45% of capacity	
Owyhee Reservoir	27% of capacity	
McKay Reservoir	59% of capacity	
Wallowa Lake	13% of capacity	
Thief Valley Reservoir	17% of capacity	
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)		
Grande Ronde at Troy	469 cfs	
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	102 cfs	
Burnt River near Unity	137 cfs	
Umatilla River near Gibbon	43 cfs	
Minam River at Minam	104 cfs	
Powder River near Richland	19 cfs	

THURSDAY EXTREMES		
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)		
High: 117°	Death Valley, Calif.	
Low: 38°	Bodie State Park, Calif.	
Wettest: 2.94"	Jefferson, Ohio	
OREGON		
High: 105°	The Dalles	
Low: 46°	Newport	
Wettest: 0.01"	Sexton Summit	
WEATHER HISTORY		
Duluth, Minn., recorded an all-time high temperature of 106 degrees on July 31, 1936. This is hotter than has ever been recorded at Miami Beach, Fla., where being near the ocean prevents extreme heat.		
SUN & MOON		
Sunrise	5:36 a.m.	5:37 a.m.
Sunset	8:21 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Moonrise	none	12:10 a.m.
Moonset	1:51 p.m.	2:55 p.m.
MOON PHASES		
Last	New	First
Jul 31	Aug 8	Aug 15
		Aug 22

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY	
City	SUN. HI/LO/W	MON. HI/LO/W	ANTHONY LAKES
Astoria	67/57/c	68/54/pc	A t-storm around
Bend	87/64/t	85/61/t	57 48
Boise	83/69/t	83/67/pc	MT. EMILY REC.
Brookings	61/53/pc	59/51/pc	A t-storm around
Burns	84/56/t	85/52/pc	70 59
Coos Bay	68/54/c	67/52/pc	EAGLE CAP WLD.
Corvallis	88/59/s	88/56/s	A stray t-storm
Council	81/62/t	80/60/t	62 50
Elgin	81/64/t	82/55/pc	WALLOWA LAKE
Eugene	91/61/pc	92/59/s	A stray t-storm
Hermiston	87/71/c	96/64/pc	75 59
Hood River	88/70/c	94/64/pc	THIEF VALLEY RES.
Imnaha	85/67/t	86/60/c	A t-storm around
John Day	87/65/t	89/61/t	79 60
Joseph	75/59/t	79/58/t	PHILLIPS LAKE
Kennewick	85/73/c	96/64/pc	A t-storm around
Klamath Falls	82/52/t	85/51/pc	75 57
Lakeview	81/52/t	83/53/pc	BROWNLEE RES.
Lewiston	87/73/t	86/67/c	A stray t-storm
Longview	80/58/pc	81/55/s	83 65
Meacham	81/64/t	84/56/pc	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Medford	97/67/t	94/67/s	More humid, cooler
Newport	63/51/c	63/49/pc	74 54
Olympia	83/55/pc	82/51/s	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Ontario	85/70/t	85/62/pc	Cooler
Pasco	91/71/c	96/62/pc	85 66
Pendleton	83/67/c	92/64/pc	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Portland	87/62/pc	88/61/s	A t-storm around
Powers	81/55/pc	77/53/pc	80 65
Redmond	90/64/c	88/57/t	
Roseburg	92/65/pc	95/63/s	
Salem	92/62/pc	90/60/s	
Spokane	82/68/t	82/64/c	
The Dalles	96/72/c	97/68/pc	
Ukiah	79/59/c	86/53/pc	
Walla Walla	87/69/c	89/68/pc	

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