

Discovery of ring complicates imminent engagement



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: Over the weekend, while I was cleaning and reorganizing our bedroom, I found the engagement ring my boyfriend plans on proposing to me with. I didn't know he was planning to ask the big question, and I'm thrilled that he is going to. I haven't even hinted that I know anything is going on because I don't want to ruin the surprise more than I already have.

My problem is, I hate the ring he chose. It's beautiful, but, Abby, it's so big. I like dainty jewelry,

and it is the complete opposite of anything I would ever choose for myself. What do I do? I love this man with my whole heart. He's my best friend, and we have been there for each other through the lowest of lows and the highest of highs. We have great communication and always keep things completely honest between us. I suppose I should suck it up. He chose this ring for me, and I don't want to hurt his feelings. Please tell me what to do. — **Disappointed In Illinois**

Dear Disappointed: Congratulations on your upcoming engagement. Your problem is unique because most of the letters I receive about engagement rings come from women who are disappointed that the stone is so

small. However, if the size of the stone in the ring your boyfriend is giving you makes you uncomfortable, your response — after an enthusiastic “YES!!!” — could be, “But, darling, this stone is so large we will have to hire an armed guard to accompany me if I wear it outside the house. Are you sure it's wise for me to wear this every day? I would be very happy with something more modest, you know.” (It's worth a try.)

Dear Abby: I have always been too kind and polite. I give money I shouldn't, say yes to favors I don't want to do and keep my mouth shut in situations where I should speak up. My best friend once told me I shouldn't say what she needed to hear, but only what she wanted to hear.

I have been in therapy for two years now, and have finally reached the point where I'm learning to say no. I love that when I meet strangers, I can use the skills I'm learning and be more assertive.

My friends and family are having a hard time with it. I broke up with the bestie because our relationship had been not only long, but also toxic and abusive. Other people I come in contact with now seem shocked if I say no or voice an opinion of my own. They then proceed to pressure me to change my mind, which makes me transform back into a mouse and comply so I won't seem rude. How can I get them to understand — in a polite way — that I am changing for the better, which

includes putting myself, my needs and my decisions between yes and no first? — **Looking Out For Number One**

Dear Looking Out: You and your therapist appear to have been doing some good work. Of course people who hear you say no or state your honest opinion are having trouble with it. That's not the person you were. You are becoming a new person, someone with whom they are not used to dealing. Keep in mind that when someone asks you to do something you would rather not do, you always have the right to refuse. And when you are pressured to change your opinion, what you should say is, “Intelligent minds can differ,” or, “I'm entitled to my opinion.” It's the truth.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Vulgar vanity plates banned in Maine

New regulation aims to clean up the language on streets, highways

By DAVID SHARP

The Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine — Removing the flipping obscenities from license plates on Maine's roads and highways isn't going to happen overnight, even though a law banning such profanities in a state where such regulation has been unusually lax went into effect Monday, Oct. 18.

Currently, there are license plates with salty language including f-bombs, references to anatomy and sex acts, and general insults.

One license plate says simply, “F—YOU” — except that on the plate, it's plainly spelled out.

Now, rule-making is getting underway to ensure the law protects First Amendment rights while getting rid of obscene language.

The process, which includes public comment, could take between two to four months, Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said.

Requests for so-called vanity license plates that are deemed to be potentially offensive will be on hold in the meantime. Eventually, the state will

begin recalling previously issued plates, likely this winter.

“Rule-making will delay the process of active removal of plates from the road but will help us balance the free speech rights of citizens and the public interest of removing inappropriate license plates,” she said.

A majority of states have restrictions on license plate messages that are considered profane, sexually suggestive, racist, drug related, politically objectionable or religiously offensive.

But Maine became the “wild, wild, wild west of vanity license plates” when the state dropped its review process in 2015. “Our anything-goes approach was unusual,” Bellows said.

As a former executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, Bellows understands the importance of the First Amendment protections on free speech. But she acknowledged

she didn't understand the extent of “really disturbing” license plates before she was sworn in as secretary of state earlier this year.

There have been lawsuits over the issue in other states.

Last year, a federal judge ruled that California couldn't enforce a ban on vanity license plates it considers “offensive to good taste and decency.”

The California law was overly broad, so states must be careful to target license

“If you really want an offensive slogan on your car, then you can use a bumper sticker.”

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who said that as many as 400 license plates may be recalled to get rid of salty language

plates that are profane or obscene, or represent hate speech.

In Maine, there are about 121,000 vanity license plates on the roads in a state with about 1.3 million residents. An estimated 400 offensive plates could be subject to recall, officials said.

Bellows said she's looking at it this way: “If you can't say it on the 6 o'clock news, it shouldn't be on a license plate.”



Robert F. Bukaty/The Associated Press, File

Traffic approaches Maine Turnpike toll booths in Gardiner, Maine, in this Feb. 2011 file photo. A Maine law banning obscene license plates went into effect Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, but getting the foul language off the roads and highways won't happen overnight.

“The license plate is the property of the state,” she said. “If you really want an offensive slogan on your car, then you can use a bumper sticker.”

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weather

TONIGHT

Cloudy with showers late

Baker City 48

Comfort Index™ 10

FRI

Cooler with heavy rain

Baker City 56 34

0

SAT

Cloudy with a little rain

Baker City 52 35

0

SUN

Cloudy, showers; breezy

Baker City 50 40

0

MON

Cloudy with a few showers

Baker City 52 31

0

La Grande 49

Comfort Index™ 10

50 42

0

53 42

0

53 39

1

Enterprise 48

Comfort Index™ 10

50 36

0

53 35

5

52 42

3

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			
High Tuesday	Baker City 65°	La Grande 68°	Elgin 67°
Low Tuesday	20°	26°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.04	0.07	0.19
Normal month to date	0.34	0.81	1.07
Year to date	3.62	7.45	16.60
Normal year to date	7.20	12.81	17.94

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	70%
Afternoon wind	SSW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	3.4
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	10% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	10% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	20% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	3% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	583 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	17 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	45 cfs
Minam River at Minam	52 cfs
Powder River near Richland	3 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

On Oct. 21, 1991, dry winds fanned a wildfire in the Oakland, Calif., area. A wet spring, then a windy, hot fall causes the highest fire danger on the West Coast.

SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:17 a.m.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset	5:57 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
Moonrise	6:39 p.m.	7:03 p.m.
Moonset	8:15 a.m.	9:21 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
			
Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 19

TUESDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 92°	Zapata, Texas		
Low: 2°	Bodie State Park, Calif.		
Wettest: 1.67"	Lander, Wyo.		

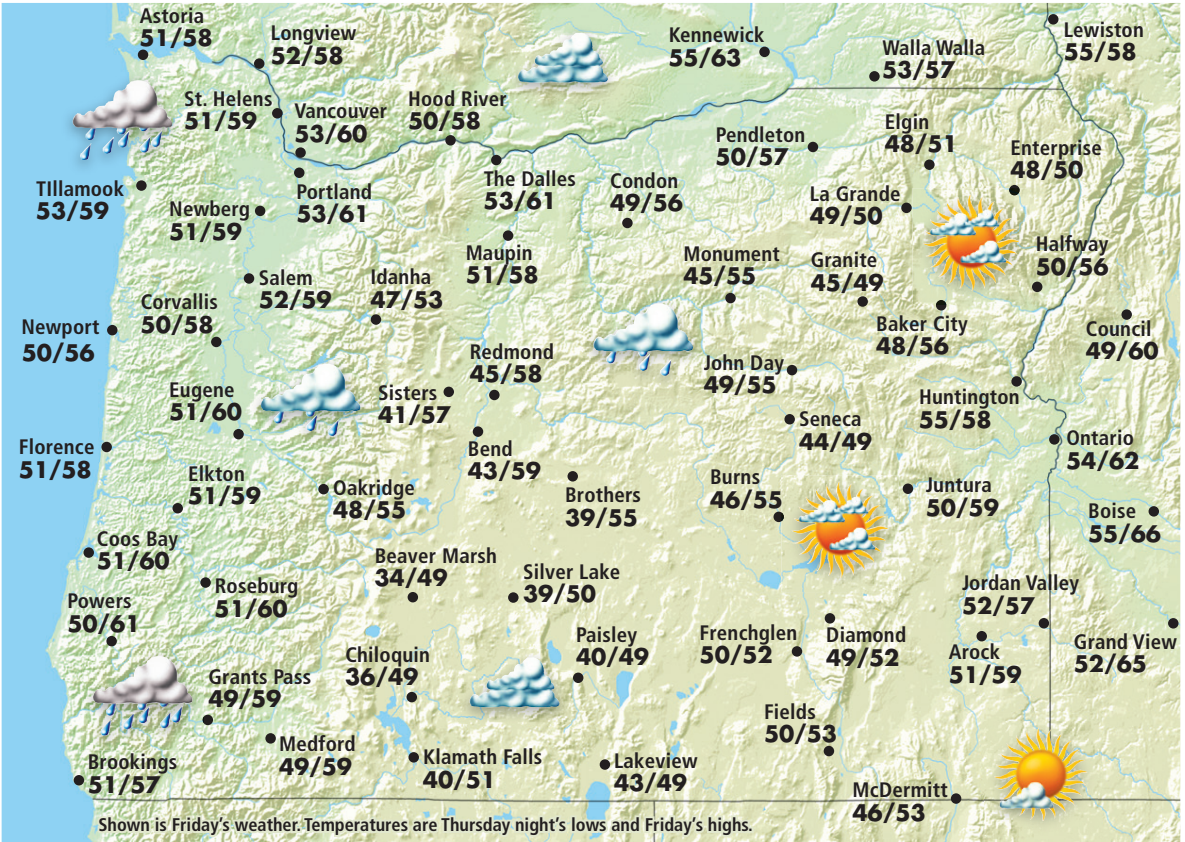
OREGON			
High: 68°	Ontario		
Low: 20°	Burns		
Wettest: Trace	Brookings		

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AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	58/50/r	56/45/r	Lewiston	58/45/sh	59/45/sh
Bend	59/45/r	56/42/r	Longview	58/52/r	55/48/r
Boise	66/44/c	58/44/c	Meacham	49/40/r	52/41/r
Brookings	57/48/r	56/49/r	Medford	59/46/r	56/46/r
Burns	55/32/r	49/32/r	Newport	56/49/r	55/44/r
Coos Bay	60/51/r	57/49/r	Olympia	56/46/r	55/44/r
Corvallis	58/47/r	57/43/r	Ontario	62/42/r	60/45/c
Council	60/37/r	51/40/c	Pasco	63/44/sh	62/45/c
Elgin	51/41/r	53/40/r	Pendleton	57/46/sh	57/44/r
Eugene	60/48/r	57/48/r	Portland	61/52/r	57/49/r
Hermiston	62/47/sh	63/46/r	Powers	61/50/r	58/46/r
Hood River	58/48/r	53/45/r	Redmond	58/41/sh	55/40/r
Imnaha	59/41/r	56/42/c	Roseburg	60/50/r	56/49/r
John Day	55/43/r	53/43/r	Salem	59/51/r	57/47/r
Joseph	51/37/r	49/36/c	Spokane	52/41/sh	52/40/sh
Kennewick	63/46/c	61/46/c	The Dalles	61/48/r	57/46/r
Klamath Falls	51/38/r	47/40/r	Ukiah	48/38/r	49/36/r
Lakeview	49/32/sh	45/37/r	Walla Walla	57/46/sh	58/46/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 FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Morning rain	Heavy rain; cooler
39 24	48 35
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Heavy rain; chilly	Cooler with rain
45 35	58 40
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Periods of rain	Heavy rain; cooler
41 26	44 34
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Heavy rain; cooler	Showers; cooler
51 37	56 45
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Heavy rain; cooler	Heavy rain; cooler
56 34	50 42