

# Costs quickly adding up for wedding participant



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

I'm being "invited" to spend a significant chunk of my savings over the course of a few months. (The weddings themselves will require significant travel.)

The bachelorette party I'm most concerned about is for a wedding in which I have been asked to be a bridesmaid. For this reason, I feel obligated to attend. The cost associated with the weekend is \$2,500 per person and will total \$20,000 for three days. This equals three months of rent for me, and I'm finding it hard to justify this kind of expense. I get anxious thinking about the other expenses — flights, accommodations, gifts — and time-off requests from work.

My first instinct is to say "No," but it's hard to refuse a bride who is so important to me. I want to be supportive and involved during this exciting time for her. How much is too much? What is the proper etiquette for being in the wedding party and attending the bachelorette party? Should I have asked about this before accepting to be in the bridal party? — **ANXIOUS ATTENDANT**

**DEAR ANXIOUS ATTENDANT:** Yes, you should have asked the bride before accepting her invitation to join the wedding party. And it is not too late to speak up. Contrary to popular belief, bachelorette parties and weddings do not "go together

like a horse and carriage." TALK with your friend. Explain that all of the costs (travel, outfit and wedding gift) are more than you can afford. If you do, she may tell you it's enough that you travel to and participate in the wedding. However, if she doesn't, back out so she can replace you.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, who is in his 60s, wears a baseball cap all day, every day, to hide a bald spot on the back of his head. He has worn that same dirty cap for two years and even wears it to work. He wears it in the house and only removes it when he is sleeping. I have suggested he wash it or replace it, but he refuses and he makes a tsk-tsk noise when I tell him I

don't think it's healthy to wear something filthy on your head for two years. — **DISGUSTED IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR DISGUSTED:** You are correct; it isn't healthy. According to the Cleveland Clinic, moderate exposure to sunlight increases vitamin D levels in the body, which is not only beneficial to good health, but it also encourages hair growth. Your husband is doing himself no favors by constantly wearing that (dirty) baseball cap, especially indoors. If he does it because he's self-conscious about his bald spot, there are products that can minimize it, and effective surgical options if he would be willing to spend the money.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Rash-causing moth spreading due to warming, scientists find

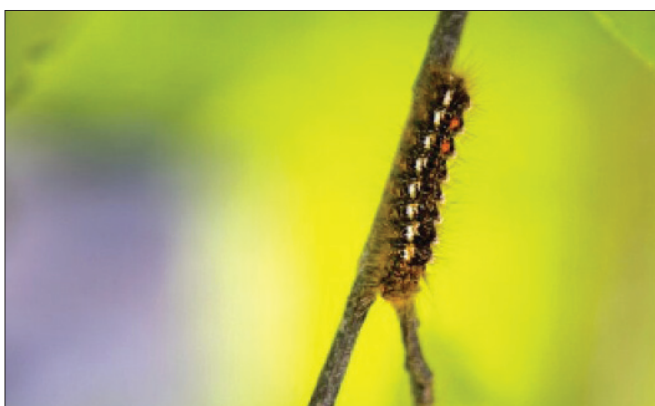
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A forest pest that bedevils Maine residents and tourists with hairs that cause an itchy rash appears to be spreading due to warming temperatures, a group of scientists has found.

The browntail moth is a scourge in America's most forested state, where it defoliates trees and causes a rash in humans that resembles poison ivy. The hairs of the caterpillars, which have been the subject of an outbreak in the state for about seven years, can also cause respiratory trouble.

The growth and spread of the moth is tied to increasingly warm weather, especially in the fall, the scientists wrote recently in the journal *Environmental Entomology*. And, unfortunately, climate trends suggest upcoming years could be even worse, they wrote.

Warmer fall temperatures are especially beneficial to the pesky bugs because that allows them to



University of Maine/Contributed Photo, File

This 2017 photo by Holland Haverkamp shows a browntail moth caterpillar in Maine. The caterpillars can cause an itchy rash in humans, and a new study by University of Maine scientists states that their spread appears aided by climate change.

get fatter before they hibernate for the winter, said Eleanor Groden, professor emerita of entomology at University of Maine and the principal investigator on the study.

"If they come out of those webs as hearty individuals, older individuals maturity wise, then they are better able to withstand that period and you get higher populations," Groden said. "And you get defoliation

that spring, and populations are raising havoc for anyone who has them in their yards."

The browntail moth is native to Europe and neighboring countries in Asia and Africa. It was accidentally introduced in Massachusetts in the late 19th century and is now found in coastal Maine and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The caterpillars become active from April to June and

have been identified as "an insect of both forest and human health concern" by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

The population of the moths has ebbed and flowed in the decades since it first arrived in Maine in 1904. But the outbreak has been steadily worsening in Maine in recent years, and entomologists said last year was the worst year for browntail moth infestations in state history. The bugs have been growing in both number and territory, as the Maine Forest Service said they've spread into northern and western areas of the state in the last two years.

The study found early fall temperatures are a key determinant of population levels the following year, and that climate trends "indicate continued increases in fall temperatures" since the moth's resurgence in the state.

It's another example of how climate change can aggravate pest prob-

lems and jeopardize human health, said David Wagner, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut who was not involved in the study. Climate change has already exacerbated problems with disease-causing pests such as mosquitoes and ticks, he said.

"Climate change appears to be an important driver in this system," Wagner said. "So this outbreak can continue to increase, and it could come at great expense to land owners and great nuisance for landowners."

Maine communities have tried numerous strategies to try to slow the spread of the moth, including informing residents about how to safely remove their nests. The Maine Legislature is considering creating a special grant fund to pay for mitigation measures.

They're a tough species to manage because they're spreading fast and not native to the ecosystem, Groden said.

"What we are left with

is how can we mitigate the localized problem in our yards and public spaces," she said.

### Potent protest: Bars drop Russian vodka, promote Ukraine's

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Some bars and liquor stores think they've found a potent way to punish Russia for invading Ukraine: They're pulling Russian vodka off their shelves and promoting Ukrainian brands instead.

"I woke up yesterday morning, and I saw that Russia had invaded Ukraine. You wonder what you can do," said Bob Quay, owner of Bob's Bar in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "The U.S. obviously is putting on sanctions. I thought I would put on sanctions as well."

So he hid his shelves of the old Soviet brand Stolichnaya and started promoting Ukraine's Vektor. "We have a sign above it that says: Support Ukraine."

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# weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Overcast, showers around	Cloudy with a shower	Chilly with snow and rain	Partly sunny and chilly	A couple of snow showers
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45 32</b>	<b>42 28</b>	<b>40 25</b>	<b>38 21</b>
Comfort Index™	2	1	0	0	0
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>51 37</b>	<b>41 35</b>	<b>40 33</b>	<b>41 26</b>
Comfort Index™	2	2	0	0	0
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49 35</b>	<b>40 33</b>	<b>37 27</b>	<b>34 28</b>
Comfort Index™	3	4	0	1	0

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 Sunday	35°	37°	41°
Low Sunday	22°	27°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	Trace	Trace	0.11
Month to date	Trace	0.58	1.59
Normal month to date	0.57	1.18	2.26
Year to date	0.38	1.85	5.52
Normal year to date	1.27	2.85	5.53

### SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	Plant City, Fla.
High: 88°	Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Low: 31°	Quillayute, Wash.
Wettest: 3.18"	
OREGON	Medford
High: 66°	Rome
Low: 14°	Tillamook
Wettest: 0.53"	

### AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	S at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.7
Evapotranspiration	0.06

### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)

Phillips Reservoir	3% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	34% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	23% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	43% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	26% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	52% of capacity

### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1330 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	7 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	158 cfs
Minam River at Minam	161 cfs
Powder River near Richland	35 cfs

### WEATHER HISTORY

On March 1, 1983, the temperature dropped to 59 in Honolulu while heavy rain hit California. When the jet stream dips far south, Hawaii is cool while California is wet.

### SUN & MOON

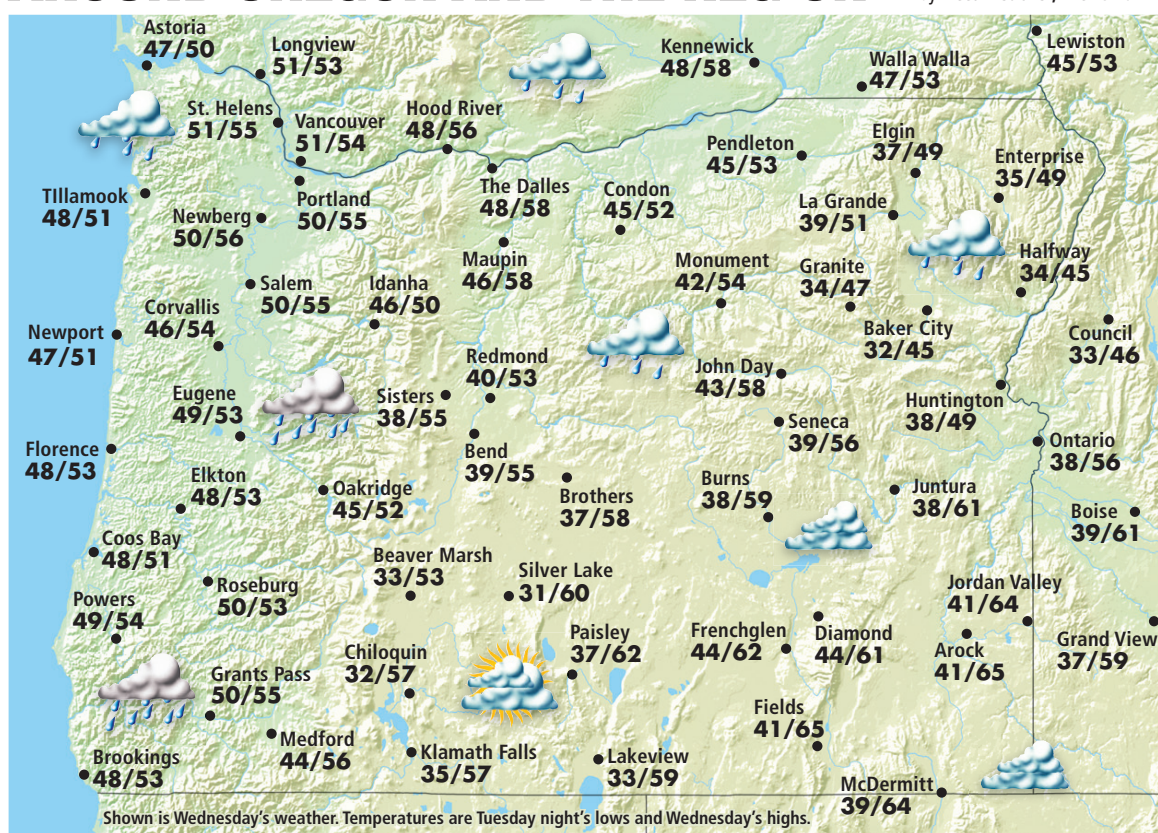
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	6:31 a.m.	6:29 a.m.
Sunset	5:39 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Moonrise	6:31 a.m.	6:58 a.m.
Moonset	4:33 p.m.	5:50 p.m.

### MOON PHASES



## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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### REGIONAL CITIES

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

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

### RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

Location	WED.	THU.	Location	WED.	THU.
ANTHONY LAKES	33 24	47 35	PHILLIPS LAKE	47 35	47 35
MT. EMILY REC.	33 24	47 35	BROWNLEE RES.	47 35	47 35
EAGLE CAP WILD.	43 31	51 36	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	51 36	51 36
WALLOWA LAKE	35 28	46 31	MCKAY RESERVOIR	46 31	46 31
THIEF VALLEY RES.	49 36	55 41	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	55 41	55 41
	45 32	51 37		51 37	51 37

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