

Accident ends couple's plan to have children together

DEARABBY: I am 15 years older than my boyfriend, "Spencer," and have two kids from a previous marriage. Spencer and I have been living together for the past 10 years.

I planned to have his child, but was involved in an accident and now can no longer have kids. He blames me nearly every day for having "experienced life" while he hasn't. He wants kids, and mine are mine — not his. He calls me ugly names now and is physically and emotionally abusive.

I love Spencer very much, and I feel deeply hurt. It wasn't my choice to be infertile, but he truly hates me for it. I get choked and pushed and have bruises the next day. Do I just give up and leave him after so many years of harmony?

This has only gotten extremely bad over the past year. My gut says he's involved with a girl at work who is giving him bad advice. She's 12 years younger than he is. I have caught them texting and talking together in our car at his job. Please help me with some advice.

— LOST SOUL IN OREGON

DEAR LOST SOUL: I'll try. You should have drawn the line the first time Spencer became abusive. For the sake of your children — not to mention your own safety — tell him he has to leave. That's what he's really trying to do, force you to end what has become a toxic relationship so he won't have to take the responsibility. Because his priority is having children "of his own," he needs to move on and, frankly, so do you.

DEARABBY: I am NOT one of those fit, active, socially involved and sexy senior citizens. I had a hard childhood, was a busy wife and mother and, for decades, worked at jobs I hated. I spent years longing for the day when I could retire and read, read, read without feeling guilty about taking time for myself.

Now that I'm retired, my baby boomer cohort seems to feel we seniors should all be wonder women and men. Worse, my millennial children seem to agree. Is there a succinct and polite way to tell them all to go take a flying leap? I'm perfectly OK with being fat, happy and a source of entertainment for my grandchildren, who are fortunately — too small to be judgmental.

— OLD-FASHIONED IN OHIO

DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: Those who

appear to be nagging you are well-intentioned and concerned about you. So be polite and smile when you respond that you know they mean well, but you have worked long and hard to finally be able to do exactly what you want to do — which is nothing but read, read, read and enjoy your grandchildren.

That said, a person does not have to be Wonder Woman or Superman to devote half an

hour five days a week to her or his health by walking. You could listen to an audiobook while you do it. In addition, you could also do something fun with your grandkids that incorporates a little bit of movement for all of you. Just sayin'.

DEARABBY: I am a 50-year-old woman. I have been married to my husband for 28 years and never cheated. We have a good life together, and our sex life has always been great, but I have recently fallen in love with another woman.

I haven't told anyone, not even her. She has made several comments and advances toward me, but she frequently makes comments like, "I don't swim in the lady pond."

The two of us recently went out of town together. When she kissed me on my neck, I pulled away and nothing more happened. I am positive that if I hadn't, something would have happened.

I feel like I'm going crazy because I think about her every minute. We talk on the phone several times a day. She's married (to a man) and has been for 30 years. Is it possible for two straight women to suddenly fall in love with each other? Should I tell her how I feel? Please help me. I'm confused, lost and in turmoil.

— FALLING IN LOVE

DEAR FALLING: Yes, it is possible for members of both sexes to become attracted to someone of the same sex and fall in love. Have an honest conversation with the woman. Tell her you are confused about what happened on the trip. I'm not sure she was completely honest about her "swimming" habits,

but you may or may not be the first woman she has become attracted to.

I hesitate to advise what steps to take beyond that since you are both in longtime, committed relationships. Much will depend upon what she has to say.

Florence-weary South Carolina could get more record flooding

By Alan Sudeman and Alex DeRosier

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — As rivers swollen to record levels started to recede Thursday in North Carolina, officials tried to head off potential environmental disasters and prepared for more record flooding downstream in South Carolina.

Roads were still clogged with people trying to make it back to where the floods had crept back, leaving silty mud on walls and floors. Crews closed some bridges and reopened others as trillions of gallons of water continued its long, meandering journey to the Atlantic Ocean.

Potential environmental problems remained. Duke Energy issued a high-level emergency alert after floodwaters from the Cape Fear River overtopped an earthen dike and inundated a large lake at a closed power plant near Wilmington, North Carolina. The utility said it did not think any coal ash was at risk.

State-owned utility Santee Cooper in South Carolina is placing an inflatable dam around a coal ash pond near Conway, saying the extra 2.5 feet (76 centimeters) should be enough to keep floodwaters out. Officials warned human, hog and other animal waste were mixing in with floodwaters in the Carolinas.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster estimated damage from the flood in his state at \$1.2 billion in a letter that says the flooding will be the worst disaster in the state's modern history. McMaster asked Congressional leaders to hurry federal aid. North Carolina's governor hasn't

given an estimate of damage to his state.

Florence is blamed for at least 41 deaths in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Well over half of those killed were in vehicles.

In North Carolina, a familiar story was unfolding as many places that flooded in Hurricane Matthew in 2016 were once again inundated.

Pastor Floyd Benfield walked inside his Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Spring Lake now that the Little River has retreated.

Two years ago, flooding ruined the baseboards and carpet. This year, the water broke the windows, leaving the pews a jumbled mess and soaked Bibles and hymn books on the floor.

"This sanctuary was built in 1909, and it never flooded until Hurricane Matthew," Benfield said.

In Wilmington, things kept creeping back closer to normal in the state's largest coastal city. Officials announced the end of a curfew and the resumption of regular trash pickup.

But they said access to the city of 120,000 was still limited and asked people who evacuated to wait a few more days. They also warned people to not get caught off guard as rivers that briefly receded were periodically rising back.

In South Carolina, the flood was far from over. The water appeared to stop rising in Nichols, but the town of 360 was almost entirely submerged for the second time in three years.

Jodi Pajaro owned one of the few houses in Nichols that wasn't flooded in 2016 by the

Little Pee Dee and the Lumber Rivers which flow past either side of the town.

She evacuated like the rest of the residents and tenses up each time her cellphone dings. It is frequently pictures from friends who are rescuers riding boats in town. In the last one she saw, the water was maybe an inch or two (2.5 to 5 centimeters) from her front door.

"It doesn't look good. I am heartbroken," she wrote in a text.

The flood has been giving so much warning to Horry County, South Carolina, that officials published a detailed map of places that flooded in 2016 and warned those same places were going underwater again.

One man had time to build a 6-foot (1.8-meter) high dirt berm around his house. Rental trucks and flatbeds whisked furniture and valuables out of homes that were still dry in Conway.

The Waccamaw River has started its slow rise in the city of 23,000, and forecasters expect it to swell more than 3 feet (0.90 meters) above the previous record crest by Tuesday while still rising. Some areas could stay underwater for weeks, forecasters warned.

All that water from Nichols and Conway is heading toward Georgetown County, where five different rivers dump into the Atlantic Ocean. Officials warned more than 10 percent of the county's 61,000 residents might have to evacuate sometime next week, but called that a worst-case scenario and they couldn't give any specific forecast.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	Increasing clouds	A brief shower or two	Partly sunny	Abundant sunshine	Partly sunny and pleasant
Baker City	41	73 40	65 33	69 32	75 34
Comfort Index™	10	10	5	9	10
La Grande	48	68 42	63 35	68 34	74 39
Comfort Index™	10	6	5	10	10
Enterprise	45	66 41	61 36	67 34	73 41
Comfort Index™	10	7	8	10	10

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	73°	69°	72°
Low Thursday	29°	37°	32°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.03	0.00
Normal month to date	0.38	0.42	0.52
Year to date	4.75	10.51	20.95
Normal year to date	7.45	11.29	15.55

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 107°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 16°	Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 3.56"	Minneapolis, Minn.
OREGON	
High: 81°	Brookings
Low: 24°	Burns
Wettest: 0.01"	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

On Sept. 22, 1890, a severe hailstorm hit Strawberry, Ariz. Five days later, hail still lay in drifts 12 to 18 inches deep.

SUN & MOON

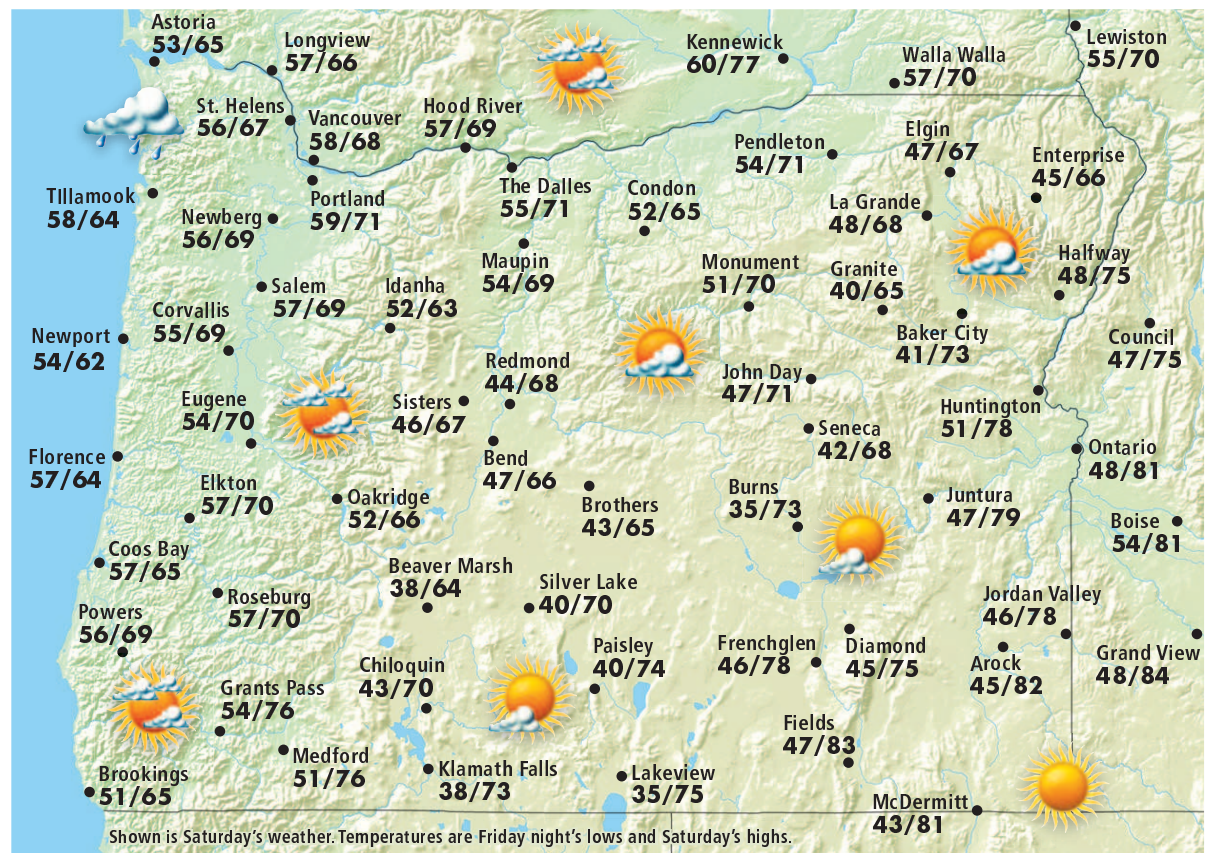
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	6:38 a.m.	6:39 a.m.
Sunset	6:52 p.m.	6:50 p.m.
Moonrise	5:40 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Moonset	2:57 a.m.	3:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 24	Oct 2	Oct 8	Oct 16

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W	City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W
Astoria	65/48/sh	65/48/pc	Lewiston	70/50/sh	68/45/s
Bend	66/36/pc	63/32/s	Longview	66/50/sh	65/45/pc
Boise	81/51/pc	70/44/s	Meacham	65/40/sh	60/34/pc
Brookings	65/49/pc	70/50/pc	Medford	76/50/pc	73/42/pc
Burns	73/34/c	65/26/s	Newport	62/46/c	61/46/s
Coos Bay	65/49/c	64/48/s	Olympia	66/46/sh	67/42/pc
Corvallis	69/44/c	69/42/s	Ontario	81/53/pc	73/44/s
Council	75/46/c	67/38/s	Pasco	76/44/pc	73/41/s
Elgin	67/42/sh	62/37/pc	Pendleton	71/48/sh	67/42/s
Eugene	70/43/c	70/41/s	Portland	71/52/sh	69/49/pc
Hermiston	76/49/pc	71/42/s	Powers	69/48/c	67/45/s
Hood River	69/50/sh	68/44/pc	Redmond	68/35/pc	65/31/s
Imnaha	72/49/sh	66/43/s	Roseburg	70/49/c	70/44/s
John Day	71/45/pc	63/38/s	Salem	69/45/c	68/43/pc
Joseph	67/41/sh	61/37/s	Spokane	67/44/c	65/42/pc
Kennewick	77/49/pc	73/43/s	The Dalles	71/48/c	70/44/s
Klamath Falls	73/36/pc	68/30/pc	Ukiah	64/39/sh	60/31/pc
Lakeview	75/36/pc	66/30/pc	Walla Walla	70/51/sh	68/47/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Partly sunny 55 34	PHILLIPS LAKE Warmer 77 41
MT. EMILY REC. Partly sunny 68 43	BROWNLEE RES. Sunshine; pleasant 82 49
EAGLE CAP WILD. Warmer 63 37	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Warmer 75 41
WALLOWA LAKE Warmer 77 45	MCKAY RESERVOIR Warmer 81 54
THIEF VALLEY RES. Partly sunny 80 41	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Warmer 81 48



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