Annual trip becomes a chore as one friend loses patience

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: This is hard to write. My mother-in-law constantly asks me how much I weigh, expecting me to give her an honest answer. I have been saying that my medical information is private, but she continues to ask, even going so far as to ask other people if they know my weight. She wheedles me for confidential health data every single time I see her.

Is she trying to steal my medical ID? Telling her it's private won't keep her from asking again. It really makes me not want to visit her anymore. Any ideas?

— PRIVATE INFO

DEAR PRIVATE: Neither of us knows the intent behind your mother-in-law's persistence. She may think you are too thin or overweight and be trying to open an unwelcome conversation on the subject.

You asked me for ideas, and I do have several:

1. Turn the tables and ask HER, "Why do you keep asking me that? It's making me uncomfortable."

2. Say, "My weight is my business."

3. Tell her the next time she mentions your weight will be the last time she sees you.

DEAR ABBY: A close friend and I usually take a girls' trip once a year — a long weekend at the same place. We drive there because it's close to where we live. She has asked me again this year about going.

I don't feel like going. She spends a lot of time on her phone, texting or playing on apps, when we should be socializing. I like to relax and have a couple of drinks when I'm on vacation; she doesn't drink. Our taste in restaurants and food is completely different, plus she's on a budget and can't afford to spend like I can. (I usually cover the cost of our stay in a condo.) She's negative and enjoys feeling sorry for herself, while I prefer looking on the bright side.

I don't mind spending an evening with her, but that's it. She hates her job, complains about financial problems and taking care of her parents, and her marriage isn't the best — but she does have a big heart. I would rather save my vacation days from work and stay home with my husband and animals.

I take multiple vacations year round; she does not. I almost feel obligated to go. I'm afraid I'll hurt her feelings if I tell her I don't want to do it anymore. I can't use work, money or the place being occupied as an excuse. What should I do?

— STAYCATION INSTEAD

DEAR STAYCATION: Frankly, if you can tolerate this woman's company for one evening only, your friendship may have gone from hot to temperate. Traditions don't necessarily last forever, and it may be time to make a change.

Tell her that this year you would love to spend an evening with her, but you prefer to stay quietly at home with your husband rather than take the long weekend trip. Be as diplomatic as possible and tell her you know she's carrying a lot on her shoulders, but the only person who can "fix" the things that stress her out or make her unhappy is her — by talking with someone who is better qualified than you are to listen and advise her.

Easter Sunday bomb blasts kill more than 200 in Sri Lanka

Bharatha Mallawarachi and Krishan Francis
The Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Nine bombings of churches, luxury hotels and other sites on Easter Sunday killed more than 200 people and wounded hundreds more in Sri Lanka's deadliest violence since a devastating civil war in the South Asian island nation ended a decade ago.

Defense Minister Ruwan Wijewardena described the blasts as a terrorist attack by religious extremists, and police said 13 suspects were arrested. Wijewardena said most of the bombings were believed to have been suicide attacks.

The explosions — mostly in or around Colombo, the capital — collapsed ceilings and blew out windows, killing worshippers and hotel guests in one scene after another of smoke, soot, blood, broken glass, screams and wailing alarms.

"People were being dragged out," said Bhanuka Harischandra, of Colombo, a 24-year-old founder of a tech marketing company who was going to the Shangri-La Hotel for a meeting when it was bombed. "People didn't know what was going on. It was panic mode."

Most of those killed were Sri Lankans. But the three bombed hotels and one of the churches, St. Anthony's Shrine, are frequented by foreign tourists, and Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said the bodies of at least 27 foreigners from a variety of countries were recovered.

The U.S. said "several" Americans were among the dead, while Britain, China, Japan and Portugal said they, too, lost citizens.

The Sri Lankan government imposed a nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and blocked most social media including Facebook and YouTube, saying it needed to curtail the spread of false information and ease tension in the country.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he feared the massacre could trigger instability in Sri Lanka, and he vowed to "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to take action against those responsible.

The Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, called on Sri Lanka's government to "mercilessly" punish those responsible "because only animals can behave like that."

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said at least 207 people were killed and 450 wounded. He said police found a safe house and a van used by the attackers.

The scale of the bloodshed recalled the worst days of Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, in which the Tamil Tigers, a rebel group from the ethnic Tamil minority, sought independence from the Buddhist-majority country. The Tamils are Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

Sri Lanka, situated off the southern tip of India, is about 70 percent Buddhist. Scattered incidents of anti-Christian harassment have occurred in recent years, but nothing on the scale of what happened Sunday.

There is also no history of violent Muslim militants in Sri Lanka. However, tensions have been running high more recently between hard-line Buddhist monks and Muslims.

Two Muslim groups in Sri Lanka condemned the church attacks, as did countries around the world.

Six nearly simultaneous blasts took place in the morning at the shrine and the Cinnamon Grand, Shangri-La and Kingsbury hotels in Colombo, as well as at two churches outside Colombo, according to a Sri Lankan military spokesman, Brig. Sumith Atapattu.

A few hours later, two more blasts occurred just outside Colombo, one of them at a guesthouse, where two people were killed, the other near an overpass, Atapattu said.

Also, three police officers were killed during a search at a suspected safe house on the outskirts of Colombo when its occupants apparently detonated explosives to prevent arrest, authorities said.

The Shangri-La's second-floor restaurant was gutted, with the ceiling and windows blown out. Loose wires hung down and tables were overturned in the blackened space.

Locals who work in Sri Lanka's vital tourism industry were shocked and upset by the bloodshed.

"After so many years, we've started again," said Gamini Francis, 56, a long-time hotel worker. "A lot of people are going to lose their jobs. 100% sure. It's tragic. Crazy people killing innocent people."

Sri Lankan forces defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009, ending a civil war that took over 100,000 lives, with both sides accused of grave human rights violations.

Harischandra, who witnessed the attack at the Shangri-La Hotel, said: "We've been through these kinds of situations before."

He said Sri Lankans are "an amazing bunch"

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weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Becoming cloudy	Clouds and sun, a shower	Mostly sunny and nice	Partly sunny and pleasant	Nice with clouds and sun
Baker City	43	72 45	71 39	78 46	73 40
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	9	10
La Grande	49	67 43	68 40	73 46	67 39
Comfort Index™	10	9	10	9	10
Enterprise	44	64 41	65 37	69 44	64 37
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	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 Saturday	55°	52°	52°
Low Saturday	44°	46°	45°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Saturday	0.06	0.24	Trace
Month to date	0.84	2.16	4.78
Normal month to date	0.52	1.00	1.33
Year to date	4.47	7.07	16.50
Normal year to date	2.72	5.23	9.03

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	9.1
Evapotranspiration	0.13
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)	
Phillips Reservoir	39% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	93% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	83% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	95% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	9% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	107% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Saturday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	17700 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	427 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	1410 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1540 cfs
Powder River near Richland	787 cfs

SATURDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 101°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 16°	Stonington, Mich.
Wettest: 3.70"	Hatteras, N.C.
OREGON	
High: 69°	Rome
Low: 33°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.43"	Medford

WEATHER HISTORY

April 22 marks the latest ever that the temperature dropped to freezing in Baltimore, Md. Freezing temperatures have been noted in the outlying suburbs well into May.

SUN & MOON

	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	5:56 a.m.	5:54 a.m.
Sunset	7:47 p.m.	7:48 p.m.
Moonrise	11:43 p.m.	none
Moonset	8:16 a.m.	8:58 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
Apr 26	May 4	May 11	May 18

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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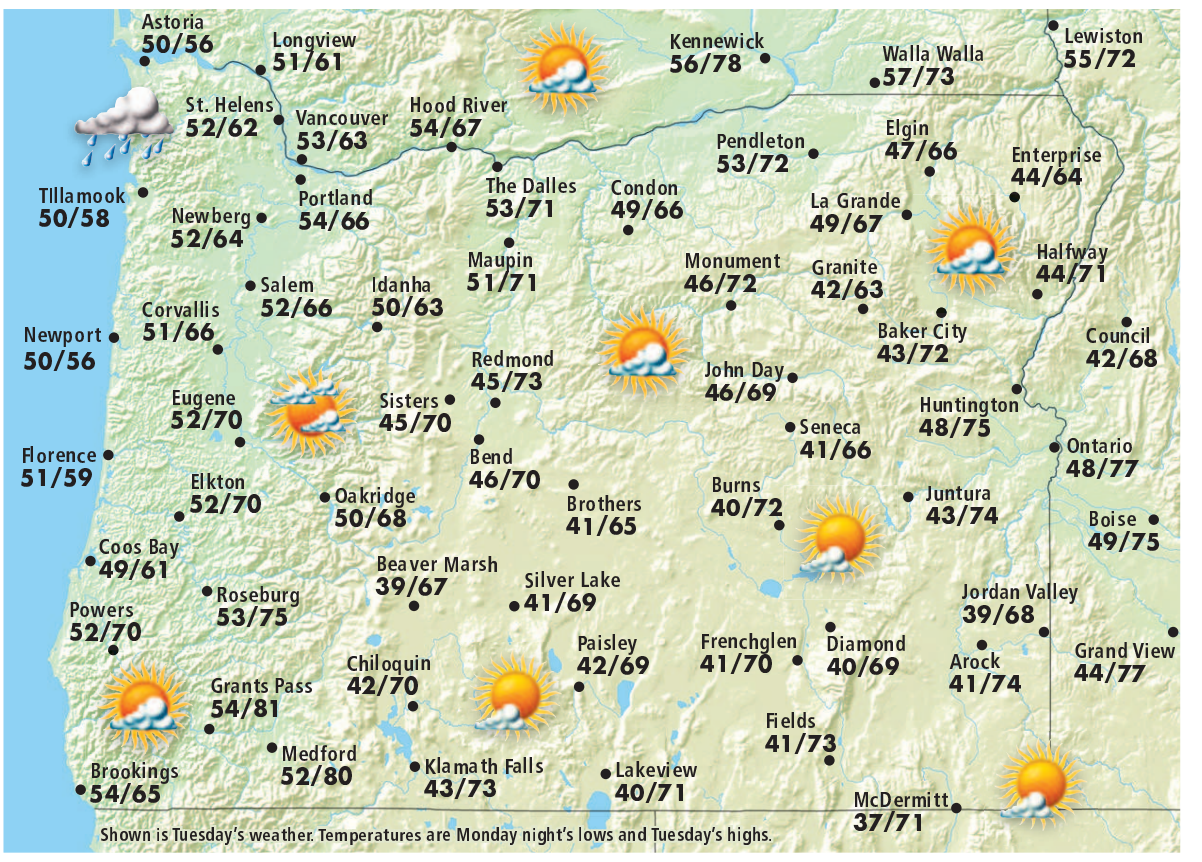

REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. Hi/Lo/W	WED. Hi/Lo/W	City	TUE. Hi/Lo/W	WED. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	56/45/sh	59/43/pc	Lewiston	72/51/pc	69/47/pc
Bend	70/43/pc	70/41/s	Longview	61/39/sh	67/41/pc
Boise	75/52/pc	74/50/pc	Meacham	63/41/pc	64/37/pc
Brookings	65/51/pc	67/49/pc	Medford	80/53/pc	79/50/pc
Burns	72/42/pc	72/42/pc	Newport	56/44/sh	56/44/pc
Coos Bay	61/46/c	59/45/pc	Olympia	62/37/sh	63/41/pc
Corvallis	66/44/sh	66/43/pc	Ontario	77/52/pc	77/48/pc
Council	68/43/pc	70/41/pc	Pasco	80/47/pc	75/45/s
Elgin	66/42/pc	66/38/pc	Pendleton	72/47/pc	68/44/s
Eugene	70/45/c	66/43/pc	Portland	66/43/sh	68/44/pc
Hermiston	76/48/pc	73/42/s	Powers	70/48/c	70/45/pc
Hood River	67/46/c	71/44/s	Redmond	73/44/pc	71/42/s
Imnaha	69/47/pc	70/43/pc	Roseburg	75/52/c	73/48/pc
John Day	69/45/pc	70/44/pc	Salem	66/44/sh	66/43/pc
Joseph	64/40/pc	65/37/pc	Spokane	66/43/pc	65/41/pc
Kennewick	78/46/pc	73/42/s	The Dalles	71/46/pc	72/47/s
Klamath Falls	73/42/pc	74/42/s	Ukiah	64/39/r	65/36/s
Lakeview	71/42/pc	73/42/s	Walla Walla	73/50/pc	69/47/s

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

RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES
Showers around
45 32

MT. EMILY REC.
A passing shower
55 39

EAGLE CAP WILD.
A stray shower
52 33

WALLOWA LAKE
Partly sunny
64 40

THIEF VALLEY RES.
Clouds and sun
72 45

PHILLIPS LAKE
Partly sunny
65 40

BROWNLEE RES.
Clouds and sun
72 47

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
A little p.m. rain
59 36

MCKAY RESERVOIR
A stray shower
71 45

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
A passing shower
67 43

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