

Ring presented at engagement ceremony is unhappy surprise

DEAR ABBY: When my then-boyfriend asked me to marry him, he didn't have a ring ready, but I happily accepted his proposal. We were in our late 20s and had been dating for almost 10 years. He then took me to the jewelry store so I could select one to my taste and liking (within budget). We took a picture of the ring, and he told me he would bring his mother back to the jewelry shop with him so she could help with the price haggling.

A week later, he told me he had made the purchase and we both couldn't wait for our engagement ceremony as we took the next step in our relationship. On that day, to my surprise, the ring he put



DEAR ABBY

on my finger wasn't the one I had selected. However, in front of his family, my family and probably 40 guests, I pretended nothing happened.

I wasn't happy at all and told him later, in private, that it wasn't the ring I chose. His answer was, his mother thought this one would look better (in my opinion, cheaper and tackier) than the one I liked and that I was overreacting. I told him that had he not taken me shopping, I would have appreciated any ring he bought. He brushes me off when I try to discuss it.

Why did he take me and then disregard my opinion? Am I overreacting, Abby?

— FOOLED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FOOLED: You are not overreacting. Your fiancé's mother had a lot of nerve. She apparently rules the roost and chose that occasion to assert herself. Worse, it appears her son values her opinion over yours. He owes you an apology.

If this happened recently and you are not yet married to this prize, the two of you should consider making a return trip to that jeweler.

Hopefully, this scenario won't be repeated with the selection of the wedding rings.

DEAR ABBY: My husband was a drug addict 18 years ago. It was a very hard time for us; he went through rehab and we almost divorced.

Fast-forward: He has been doing well, and we still have our

problems, but he hasn't used heavy drugs for 17 years. To calm his anxiety, he just has an occasional drink or uses CBD oils.

My sister-in-law told me last weekend that my sister told our son (who was 17 at the time) about my husband's drug issues when he was younger. We always kept my husband's past quiet, feeling that we would have that conversation with our son eventually, when we were ready.

I'm furious that she told him. It should have been our choice, not hers. She has violated my trust. There has been a lot of animosity between my husband and my sister in the past, so I am sure she did it out of spite. I am so upset I am afraid I'll explode and ruin the tenuous relationship I

have with her. Also, my husband will probably want to disown her for this betrayal. What do you suggest?

— BETRAYED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR BETRAYED: If your sister knew you wanted to keep this from your son until he was older, she did betray your trust. Once you have calmed down, talk to her, ask if what you were told is true, and if it is, why she would do such a thing. Once you have all the facts, your husband must be told the cat is out of the bag so the two of you can decide whether you want to continue a relationship with this sister. And because a predisposition toward addiction can run in a family, have that long-overdue talk with your son about it.

News of the Weird

Surprise firework show delights, angers Bend residents

By Garrett Andrews
The Bulletin

BEND — Around 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, the sky above Bend's west side lit up with a vivid pyrotechnic display — more than 1,800 shells whistling, popping and exploding in bright and glittering colors above the Les Schwab Amphitheater.

In all, the professional display by local pyrotechnician Gary Mattison lasted around 15 minutes.

But Nov. 16 was no holiday. There were no festivals occurring in town, no notable recent sports victories.

Residents, outside their homes and online, were confused. More than 200 people called 911.

In actuality, an anonymous donor had sponsored a professional fireworks show to "bring happiness and cheer to the community," a fact that came to light through the circulation of a post on the Old Mill's Facebook page that appeared about the same time the fireworks began.

"A private donor has sponsored a brief firework show that will be visible to most Bend residents this evening," the post read. "They hope to bring a bit of happiness and cheer to the community, and to remind us that if you have the means, please consider supporting our Central Oregon non-profits this holiday season."



Robin Judice/Video screenshot

Fireworks explode over Bend the night of Monday, Nov. 16, 2020. The 15-minute pyrotechnic display thrilled some residents of the Central Oregon city and irked others.

Comments on the Facebook post quickly displayed the division that's been a defining feature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the civil unrest going on right now, it was so scary!" wrote one person. "I am all for supporting nonprofits, but this caused fear to so many people and animals. If only we had known in advance!"

A number of people chastised the organizers and the Old Mill on behalf of dogs and people with post-traumatic stress disorder, notably military veterans. Some noted that many Bend residents,

including many in the less-affluent parts of town, could not see the display, but could hear it.

Still, many people defended the show and asked that their neighbors not be so uptight.

"Covid has made people bitter and mean," one person wrote. "They don't want anyone celebrating anything anymore! Great job on the fireworks."

Bend Mayor Sally Russell lives in a part of town where she could hear the display but could not see it. She went to bed unsure what she'd listened to. In the morning, Marney

Smith, director of the amphitheater, called with an explanation and a promise. Old Mill officials would think differently when considering future shows.

Russell said she's received much feedback, as well, ranging from thrilled to the incensed.

"We're all on edge," she said. "Some people want to think the best; some people want to go to a darker place. It's indicative of the way we live now. ...

"I think the surprise came from the community not knowing what it was ahead of time, so many didn't know where the

sound came from," Russell said.

Fireworks shows do not require an event permit with the city or the approval of the Bend City Council. There is also no requirement for organizers to notify the public ahead of time. But the people behind Monday's surprise show did have to pass several steps to get a general fireworks display permit in Bend, according to Bend Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief Patricia Connolly.

First, they had to apply with Bend Police Department and Bend fire officials to get their display

site inspected. In Bend, the city's risk management office must inspect the organizer's insurance. Next, an organizer must get the approval from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and fire and police officials must sign the permit.

According to the permit on file with Bend fire officials and sent to The Bulletin, the show's sponsor was Watson Companies, which owns Redmond-based residential developer Hayden Homes and the nonprofit housing organization First Story.

Calls to Watson Companies president Hayden Watson were not returned.

Over the past 15 years, the public hasn't been notified about numerous fireworks shows around Bend, including at Bend Elks games at Vince Genna Stadium, Summit High School's homecoming, Oregon WinterFest and weddings, said Connolly.

"In this case, it seems the intent of the Old Mill was to be mindful of the risk of COVID-19, where events such as this would draw a large crowd and potentially cause spread of the disease," Connolly said.

Russell said the episode highlights how difficult it is to hold any kind of community event during the pandemic.

"This was well-intended," she said. "And you know, doing things now is difficult. Many people are experiencing some very real hardships. We're all looking at ways to lift people's spirits."

AccuWeather

Plan your week | Get the NEW app

weather

TONIGHT

Partly cloudy

SUN

Sun through high clouds

MON

Mostly cloudy

TUE

Clouds limiting sun

WED

Showers possible

Baker City

19

Comfort Index™ 3

La Grande

27

Comfort Index™ 3

Enterprise

27

Comfort Index™ 5

38

24

1

42

25

0

43

25

3

44

21

3

2

2

2

3

3

3

4

4

4

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

50°

La Grande

50°

Elgin

47°

High Thursday

22°

Low Thursday

22°

27°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

Thursday

Trace

Month to date

0.22

Normal month to date

0.56

Year to date

3.22

Normal year to date

8.83

Trace

1.88

1.89

15.76

14.15

0.23

4.30

1.89

33.28

19.52

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY

Lowest relative humidity

40%

Afternoon wind

S at 7 to 14 mph

Hours of sunshine

6.1

Evapotranspiration

0.07

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir

8% of capacity

Unity Reservoir

27% of capacity

Owyhee Reservoir

43% of capacity

McKay Reservoir

23% of capacity

Wallowa Lake

21% of capacity

Thief Valley Reservoir

26% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy

1540 cfs

Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder

0 cfs

Burnt River near Unity

10 cfs

Umatilla River near Gibbon

196 cfs

Minam River at Minam

110 cfs

Powder River near Richland

21 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	49/41/r	51/46/c	Lewiston	43/34/pc	44/39/sf
Bend	45/29/c	44/30/c	Longview	45/40/r	49/43/r
Boise	44/27/pc	43/27/c	Meacham	39/28/pc	39/29/pc
Brookings	52/44/r	53/42/c	Medford	47/37/c	50/33/r
Burns	39/23/pc	42/19/c	Newport	50/42/r	51/44/c
Coos Bay	52/43/r	55/44/r	Olympia	44/39/r	48/41/pc
Corvallis	46/37/i	50/39/r	Ontario	40/26/c	44/25/pc
Council	36/22/c	38/22/c	Pasco	42/32/c	49/37/pc
Elgin	42/31/pc	44/32/pc	Pendleton	42/33/c	47/35/r
Eugene	47/39/r	52/41/r	Portland	45/42/r	49/46/r
Hermiston	40/33/c	48/34/pc	Powers	51/43/r	54/44/r
Hood River	43/37/c	47/40/r	Redmond	48/30/c	45/32/c
Imnaha	45/32/pc	43/33/sf	Roseburg	48/40/r	51/39/r
John Day	42/26/c	40/28/r	Salem	45/40/r	51/43/r
Joseph	40/26/pc	40/26/c	Spokane	39/30/c	38/31/sf
Kennewick	41/31/c	48/35/pc	The Dalles	41/34/c	46/38/r
Klamath Falls	44/25/c	42/23/c	Ukiah	40/27/c	38/28/sn
Lakeview	45/25/c	42/18/c	Walla Walla	42/35/c	46/39/r

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Mostly cloudy

31

18

MT. EMILY REC.

High clouds

38

28

EAGLE CAP WILD.

High clouds

30

15

WALLOWA LAKE

High clouds

40

26

THIEF VALLEY RES.

High clouds

38

24

PHILLIPS LAKE

High clouds

36

22

BROWNLEE RES.

Partly sunny

42

22

EMIGRANT ST. PARK

Mostly cloudy

38

27

MCKAY RESERVOIR

Mostly cloudy

42

33

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK

High clouds

41

29