

Distance tests a an engagement

DEAR ABBY:

I've been in a long-distance relationship for 2 1/2 years. We are now engaged, but haven't set a date for our wedding.



DEAR ABBY

We are both in the military, and we have maintained this relationship well. But there was a time before we dated that I was dating someone else. I ended that relationship, but haven't healed from it because I see him at work often, and I still have feelings for him.

He lives in my neighborhood, and I enjoy talking to him. I like the attention he gives me, and I'm attracted to him. I blame the geographical distance from my fiancé for this. I want someone close, and I would love for it to be the person I am engaged to, but although I try to abstain from this other person, I find myself drawn to him.

—CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO

DEAR CAUGHT: You say you have been together with your absent fiancé for 2 1/2 years, but are still carrying on an emotional affair with the man you broke up with. When you say you are "trying to abstain" from this person, clearly you can't.

What is going on isn't fair to the man you are engaged to. If he knew, I'm sure he would agree. Do not chalk this up to "when I'm not with the man I love, I love the one I'm with." Be honest about what you really want, follow through, and you won't be writing me again years from now asking what to do.

DEAR ABBY: I am a hairstylist with a client who was referred to me by a mutual friend, "Rita," from high school. Rita is also a client, and we go back 20-plus years. The client, who's close friends with Rita, is picky and a terrible tipper.

She boxes her hair at home, but comes to me for her haircuts. I offer her 10% off of her haircut for prebooking, so she gets a \$35 service for \$31.50. She usually tips me \$3.50. She keeps asking me to sell her hair products at a wholesale cost, which I do for my family and for Rita, but no one else.

Cutting her hair is a chore, because she's never completely happy with the service and has asked to come back for free retouching. If she were anyone else, I'd part ways with her, but because of her close relationship with Rita, she sometimes comes to dinner with us on girls' nights and is involved in our group chats.

Is there a discreet way to end this business/client relationship without screwing up my friendship with my high school pal? I'm tired of dealing with her, but I don't know how to get out.

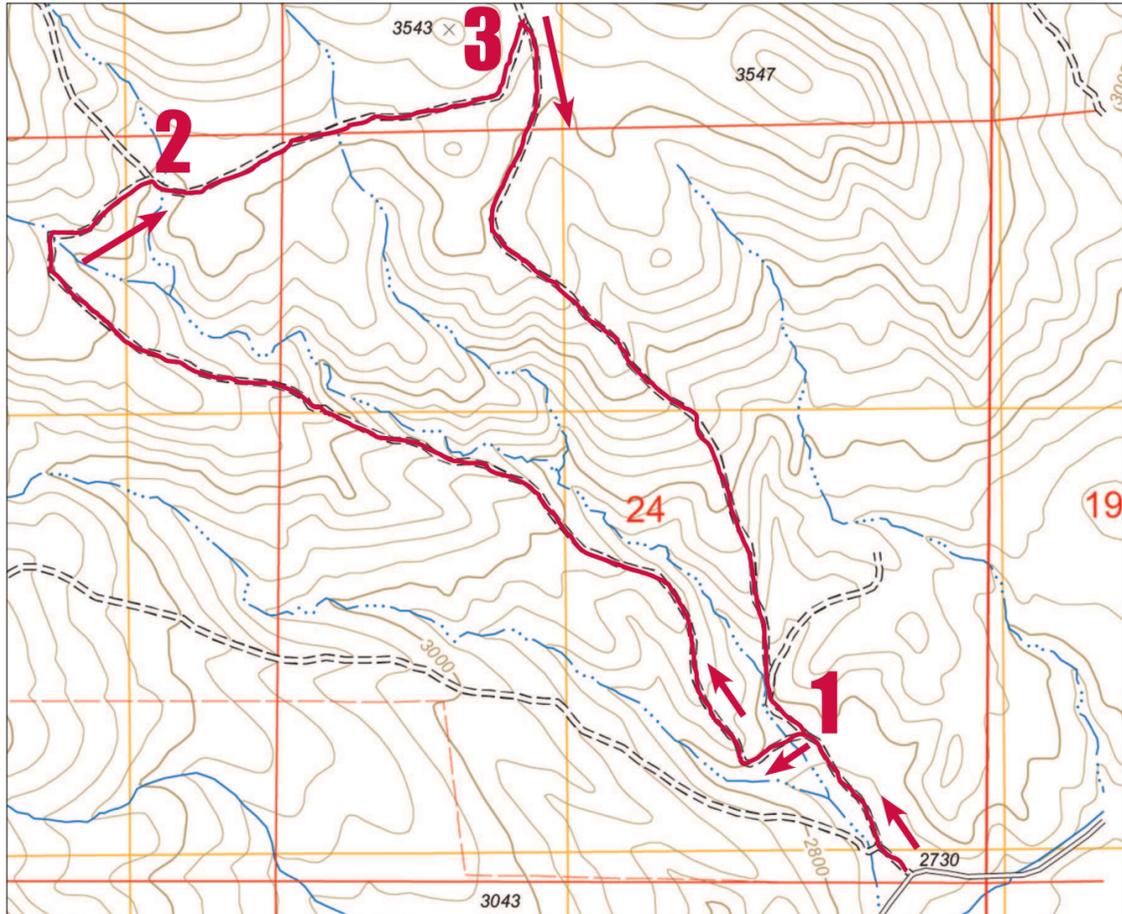
—CUTTING HER OUT

DEAR CUTTING: Handle this by telling Rita what you have written to me and explaining that the two of them may be friends, but you no longer want the woman as a client. Then sweetly tell the woman the next time she calls that your professional relationship doesn't seem to be a good fit because she has voiced dissatisfaction with your work. Then offer to refer her to someone else. Not every client is a good fit and vice versa. It's a fact of business life.

DEAR ABBY: I usually send special occasion flowers to my wife at work. I was wondering if it could make some co-workers who do not receive flowers from their partner or husband feel neglected, and worse, cause friction between them and my wife. If you feel this could be a potential problem, I can have the flowers delivered to our home.

—EXCLUDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR EXCLUDED: If receiving flowers at her job has caused any tension in the past, you probably would have heard about it. However, you should ask your wife what she would prefer because she may enjoy the public gesture of husbandly love.



The large numbers correspond to the three road junctions mentioned in the story, and the arrows indicate direction of travel for hiking the loop clockwise.

WILD

Continued from Page 2B

Here the views open to the north, dominated, as is the case throughout the Durkee country, by the bald summit of Lookout Mountain. At 7,120 feet it is the tallest peak in the southeast corner of Baker County, and it commands the terrain in a way befitting its name.

(It's also, appropriately enough, the site of a Bureau of Land Management fire lookout, which is used each summer.) The road heads straight toward Lookout Mountain for a quarter mile or so to the third and final junction. The bonus here is a brief but stirring glimpse at a small section of the Wallows. This greatest of our mountain ranges in Northeast Oregon seems almost Himalayan from this vantage point. It is a singular experience, it seems to me, to stand in what is in effect a desert landscape and to see, in the distance, an alpine world of snowfields and granite horns and high meadows that will still be green and lush with frigid snowmelt in August, when the grass we're walking through will long have gone to seed.

This is another sort of juxtaposition, but not so different

from the confluence of wildland and four-lane freeway.

From this last intersection it's almost all downhill, with the interstate occasionally visible several hundred feet below.

Extremely downhill, in a few sections.

For what might have been the first time, all four of us

agreed that I had made the right decision to hike the loop clockwise.

(I almost always endorse my route-finding choices, but mine typically is the lone voice, drowned out by the familial choir.)

This road, which also clings to the spine of a steep and narrow ridge, also reveals an

intriguing basin, similar to the one mentioned earlier but larger and more varied in its collection of stony sculptures. It's the sort of place that in a national park probably would be penetrated by a paved path.

The loop is about three miles, with an elevation gain of around 700 feet.

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weather

TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Clear	Mostly sunny and warm	Cooler with sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Chance of a shower
Baker City Comfort Index™ 10	75 40 10	61 27 8	63 31 10	65 34 10
La Grande Comfort Index™ 10	74 38 9	57 30 8	64 32 10	65 37 10
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 10	70 39 10	52 27 8	60 29 10	63 36 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	THURSDAY EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	63°	65°	66°
Low Thursday	19°	34°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.02	0.15
Normal month to date	0.38	0.73	0.99
Year to date	1.09	5.71	13.32
Normal year to date	2.58	4.96	8.69

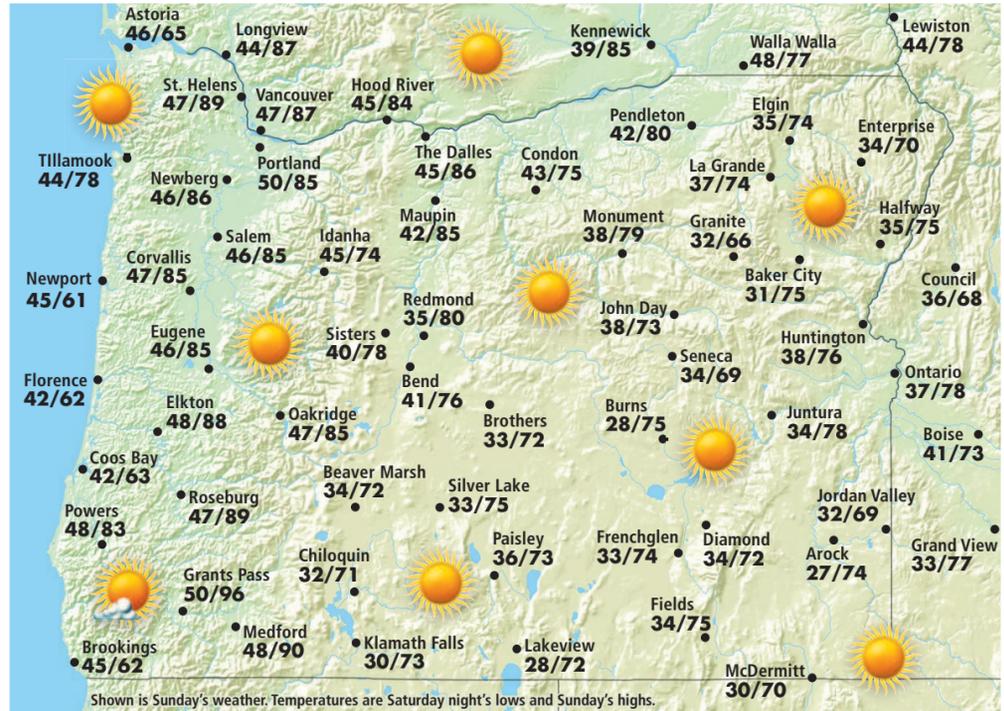
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%	
Afternoon wind	NW at 7 to 14 mph	
Hours of sunshine	12.6	
Evapotranspiration	0.20	

RESERVOIR STORAGE	THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR	
Phillips Reservoir	22%	of capacity
Unity Reservoir	96%	of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	60%	of capacity
McKay Reservoir	92%	of capacity
Wallowa Lake	65%	of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	99%	of capacity

STREAM FLOWS	THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR	
Grande Ronde at Troy	4760	cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	36	cfs
Burnt River near Unity	49	cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	379	cfs
Minam River at Minam	381	cfs
Powder River near Richland	174	cfs

MOON PHASES			
First	Full	Last	New
Apr 19	Apr 26	May 3	May 11

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY			
City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W	City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W	ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Astoria	65/44/s	64/45/pc	Lewiston	78/42/s	65/37/s	Mostly sunny	Mild with sunshine
Bend	76/41/s	61/32/pc	Longview	87/43/s	76/41/c	47 28	69 36
Boise	73/45/s	65/39/s	Meacham	73/37/s	57/28/s	60 35	71 45
Brookings	62/48/s	62/48/pc	Medford	90/48/s	80/47/pc	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny
Burns	75/35/s	65/28/s	Newport	61/43/s	58/44/pc	54 28	68 31
Coos Bay	63/41/s	59/45/pc	Olympia	83/42/s	74/42/pc	Mostly sunny; mild	Mostly sunny; park
Corvallis	85/44/s	75/46/pc	Ontario	78/46/s	71/36/s	68 35	79 38
Council	68/40/s	59/31/s	Pasco	85/45/pc	70/36/s	Mostly sunny; mild	Mostly sunny; warm
Elgin	74/38/s	58/30/s	Pendleton	80/40/s	65/35/s	75 40	74 38
Eugene	85/43/s	75/44/pc	Portland	85/51/s	75/48/pc		
Hermiston	85/43/pc	69/32/s	Powers	83/47/s	68/46/pc		
Hood River	84/48/pc	69/40/pc	Redmond	80/39/s	65/31/pc		
Imnaha	74/40/s	62/31/s	Roseburg	89/45/s	77/46/pc		
John Day	73/41/s	64/32/s	Salem	85/43/s	75/44/pc		
Joseph	68/35/s	50/27/s	Spokane	72/37/pc	59/35/s		
Kennecook	85/44/pc	68/35/s	The Dalles	86/47/pc	72/41/s		
Klamath Falls	73/33/s	68/37/pc	Ukiah	72/30/s	55/26/s		
Lakeview	72/32/s	67/33/pc	Walla Walla	77/43/pc	65/38/s		

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