

Connecting with teens will impact new relationship

DEAR ABBY: After I ended a 20-year marriage, I took some time off from relationships and am now back in the dating world. My ex-husband and I never had children.

I recently met a man with two teenagers. He says I am "detached" from children. I am not detached! I just never had experience with them. How do I proceed with this relationship since his kids are very dear to him?

— NOT DETACHED

DEAR NOT DETACHED: This man's offspring are no longer "children." They are teenagers, and teens can be compli-

cated. Reach out to them the way you would anyone of any age. Be friendly and show them you are interested in them.

If they have a mother in the picture, do not try to "mother" them. See if you share any common interests (sports, music, fashion, etc.), resist the urge to lecture them, and be a good listener.

DEAR ABBY: Back around 1987, a girl asked me to take her to her high school prom.

I was several years older, didn't know her well and wanted to say no but couldn't. In the end I stood her up.

I don't remember her name.

DEAR BIGGEST REGRET: She worked at a grocery store with my brother.

That was more than 30 years ago. I am married now and have two fine children. I was recently asked what my biggest regret is, and I said standing her up. Not one week has gone by in the last 30 years that I haven't thought about her and wished I could find her and tell her how truly sorry I am.

It's funny. Although I can't remember her name, there's no one from my past that I have thought about more than her. I would give anything to find her and apologize. It haunts me. Any suggestions?

— BIGGEST REGRET IN THE SOUTH

What you did to that girl was brutal. Because it's not possible for you to directly offer the apology she deserves, concentrate harder on the present and always try to treat everyone with kindness and sensitivity.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like advice on how to handle a problem that crops up every time family members invite me out to a dinner they are paying for.

I know the rule of etiquette is to order an item that's the same or less than what the host is ordering, but I am often asked to order first.

This means I have no idea what the payer's meal will cost. If it means ordering something

on the menu other than what I'd rather have — a burger instead of a steak — in that case, should I offer to pay for my own meal? What if they won't hear of taking any money from me? Can I still order the steak since my offer to pay was refused?

— LIKES TO FOLLOW THE RULES

DEAR LIKES: A way to get around ordering first might be to say, "I haven't decided yet. I'd like to hear what the others are ordering."

However, if you would be uncomfortable doing that, and your hosts won't let you have a separate check, be a gracious guest and enjoy every bite of your steak dinner.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Colorful coffins lighten mood at New Zealand funerals

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — When the pallbearers brought Phil McLean's coffin into the chapel, there were gasps before a wave of laughter rippled through the hundreds of mourners.

The coffin was a giant cream donut.

"It overshadowed the sadness and the hard times in the last few weeks," said his widow, Debra. "The final memory in everyone's mind was of that donut, and Phil's sense of humor."

The donut was the latest creation by Phil's cousin Ross Hall, who runs a business in Auckland, New Zealand, called Dying Art, which custom builds colorful coffins.

Other creations by Hall include a sailboat, a firetruck, a chocolate bar and Lego blocks. There have been glittering coffins covered in fake jewels, a casket inspired by the movie "The Matrix," and plenty of coffins depicting



Sophie Clark via AP

Ross Hall shows Hall, owner of Dying Art, stands with a selection of custom caskets in Auckland, New Zealand, Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Hall's company Dying Art, makes unique custom caskets that reflect the people who will eventually lay inside them, whether it's a love for fire engines, a cream doughnut or Lego.

people's favorite beaches and holiday spots.

"There are people who are happy with a brown mahogany box and that's great," said Hall. "But if they want to shout it out, I'm here to do it for them."

The idea first came to

Hall about 15 years ago when he was writing a will and contemplating his own death.

"How do I want to go out?" he thought to himself, deciding it wouldn't be like everyone else. "So I put in my will that I want a red

box with flames on it."

Six months later, Hall, whose other business is a sign and graphics company, decided to get serious. He approached a few funeral directors who looked at him with interest and skepticism. But over time, the

idea took hold.

Hall uses fiberboard and plywood to add details. A latex digital printer is used for the designs. Some orders are complex, like the sailboat, which included a keel and rudder, cabin, sails, even metal railings.

Depending on the design, the coffins retail for between about 3,000 and 7,500 New Zealand dollars (\$2,100 and \$5,400).

Hall said the tone of funerals has changed markedly over recent years.

"People now think it's a celebration of life rather than a mourning of death," he said. And they've been willing to throw out stuffy conventions in favor of getting something unique.

But, a donut?

Debra McLean said she and her late husband, who was 68 when he died in February, used to tour the country in their motorhome and Phil loved comparing cream donuts in every small town, considering himself something of a connoisseur.

He considered a good donut one that was crunchy

on the outside, airy in the middle, and definitely made with fresh cream.

After Phil was diagnosed with bowel cancer, he came up with the idea for the donut coffin. Debra said they had 150 donuts delivered to the funeral from Phil's favorite bakery.

Hall said his coffins are biodegradable and are usually buried or cremated along with the deceased. The only one he's ever gotten back is his cousin's, he said, because he used polystyrene and shaping foam, which is not environmentally friendly.

Phil was switched to a plain coffin for his cremation and Hall said he'll keep the donut coffin forever. For now, it remains in the back of his white 1991 Cadillac hearse.

As for his own funeral? Hall said he's changed his mind about those red flames. He's emailed his kids saying he wants to be buried in a clear coffin wearing nothing but a leopard-pattern G-string.

— Associated Press

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Patchy clouds	A blend of sun and clouds	Mostly cloudy and warm	Partly sunny and pleasant	Not as warm
Baker City	31	70 37	77 43	81 46	66 35
Comfort Index™	10	10	9	8	9
La Grande	39	71 43	79 48	76 50	65 41
Comfort Index™	10	10	8	9	9
Enterprise	35	67 45	76 47	74 47	60 41
Comfort Index™	10	10	9	9	8

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	51°	52°	56°
Low Sunday	35°	35°	37°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.25	0.10	0.19
Month to date	0.44	0.15	0.37
Normal month to date	0.68	1.30	1.67
Year to date	1.53	5.84	13.54
Normal year to date	2.88	5.53	9.37

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High: 100° Zapata, Texas
 Low: 11° Cotton, Minn.
 Wettest: 1.42" Orlando, Fla.

OREGON
 High: 67° Hermiston
 Low: 28° Redmond
 Wettest: 0.54" Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

On April 27, 1928, winter returned briefly to Bayard, W.Va. Over 34 inches of snow fell in 24 hours, West Virginia's heaviest April snowfall ever.

SUN & MOON

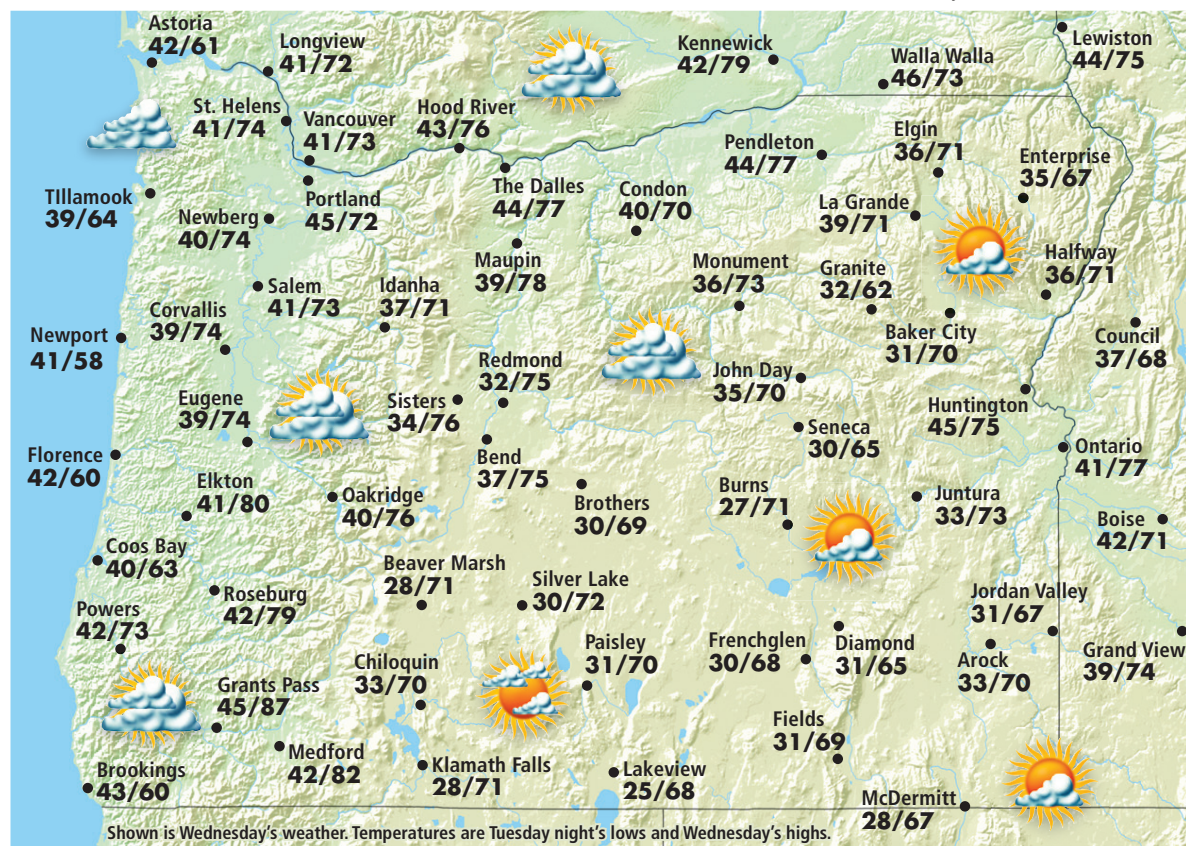
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	5:47 a.m.	5:45 a.m.
Sunset	7:54 p.m.	7:55 p.m.
Moonrise	9:04 p.m.	10:28 p.m.
Moonset	6:19 a.m.	6:52 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
May 3	May 11	May 19	May 26

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	61/44/pc	63/47/c	Lewiston	75/49/pc	82/54/c
Bend	75/43/pc	84/46/c	Longview	72/45/pc	78/46/c
Boise	71/47/pc	77/53/pc	Meacham	68/42/pc	80/46/c
Brookings	60/46/pc	58/45/pc	Medford	82/48/pc	85/48/pc
Burns	71/34/pc	80/39/pc	Newport	58/44/pc	59/46/c
Coos Bay	63/41/pc	59/38/pc	Olympia	66/43/pc	75/46/c
Corvallis	74/44/pc	77/42/c	Ontario	77/46/pc	82/51/pc
Council	68/42/pc	74/47/pc	Pasco	79/49/pc	86/52/c
Elgin	71/43/pc	80/47/c	Pendleton	77/50/pc	83/56/c
Eugene	74/44/pc	77/42/c	Portland	72/48/pc	77/48/c
Hermiston	80/51/pc	87/57/c	Powers	73/45/pc	72/39/pc
Hood River	76/47/pc	83/46/c	Redmond	75/40/pc	84/43/c
Imnaha	71/44/pc	80/47/c	Roseburg	79/46/pc	80/44/pc
John Day	70/43/pc	79/46/c	Salem	73/45/pc	79/44/c
Joseph	65/45/pc	74/49/c	Spokane	68/49/pc	74/51/c
Kennewick	79/53/pc	87/53/c	The Dalles	77/47/pc	83/49/c
Klamath Falls	71/37/pc	79/38/pc	Ukiah	70/41/pc	80/46/c
Lakeview	68/36/pc	77/37/pc	Walla Walla	73/53/pc	81/58/c

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. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
ANTHONY LAKES	46 36	Partly sunny
PHILLIPS LAKE	65 38	Clouds and sun
MT. EMILY REC.	58 44	Partly sunny
BROWNLEE RES.	71 44	Partly sunny
EAGLE CAP WILD.	53 31	Clouds and sun
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	64 39	Clouds and sun
WALLOWA LAKE	65 45	Partly sunny
MCKAY RESERVOIR	76 51	Clouds and sun
THIEF VALLEY RES.	70 37	Clouds and sun
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	71 43	Partly sunny

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