

Couple clashes over time spent with their sons

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married five years and are raising four children. One is from my previous relationship, one is from her previous relationship and two are ours. We both have joint custody. My son goes to school near his mom. My wife's son goes to school where we live. They are 9 and 8.



DEAR ABBY

There's a lot of tension between us because my stepson's father isn't the greatest parent. He never comes to school events or sporting events, so he misses half of everything. I regularly attend my son's events, which are a couple of hours away and take time away from my stepson. I put my 9-year-old first because he's my firstborn, and I have him less. My wife disagrees with this, and we fight about it constantly. I believe I am doing the right thing. Advice, please.

— WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WONDERING: I'm sorry your wife's son's father hasn't stepped up to the plate. But please do not allow your wife to interfere with your relationship with your son. You ARE doing the right thing by showing an interest in what he's doing and supporting him emotionally.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married nine years. My husband doesn't allow me to leave the house without him. He makes sure I don't have a car or access to the one we have. He tells me he doesn't mean anything by it, but if I try to take a walk alone, he is right on my heels.

If I go anywhere with my sister or a friend, I must wait until he is gone. If he gets home before I do, he's sitting on the porch waiting for me. He is not physically abusive, but I feel like a prisoner. I have told him several times how it makes me feel, but he doesn't seem to get it. I really need some advice.

— TRAPPED IN GEORGIA

DEAR TRAPPED: Your husband doesn't get it because he doesn't WANT to. What he is doing is NOT a demonstration of love or concern for your safety. It's an example of his own insecurity and need to control you. This is a big red flag, and my advice is to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline and discuss this with someone there because what's happening could escalate into abuse. The toll-free phone number is: 800-799-7233.

DEAR ABBY: I love my grown children and grandchildren, but I hate it when they come "home" for a week or more. My house gets turned upside down and inside out, and I end up losing my temper. Then I feel like an awful mother. I suggested we all meet somewhere else, but it didn't go over well. Help!

— INVADED IN NORTH DAKOTA

DEAR INVADED: Your suggestion may not have gone over well with your children and grandchildren, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't "suggest" it again. And when you do, make sure they understand you are saying it because when they visit they leave your home in disarray, which creates more work for you than you are comfortable doing. Unless they are willing to make sure your home is as neat when they leave as when they arrived, enough is enough.

EMPTY

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That's an area bigger than the five smallest states combined — Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, Hawaii and New Jersey.

Yet the total population of the three southeast counties is just 47,470, less than half the number of people who live in Bend alone.

But even that comparison is somewhat misleading. The three-county population, meager though it is, in one sense greatly exaggerates the region's population density. Of the 47,470 residents, almost half — 23,430 — live in one of just six towns: Ontario, Nyssa, Burns, Lakeview, Vale and Hines. Outside those cities the population density throughout the three counties is below one person per square mile — 640 acres.

Suffice it to say that if you venture away from one of the few highways or other paved roads, the only traffic congestion you're likely to encounter is a herd of cattle, deer or pronghorn.

(And the pronghorn, like as not, will be running far faster than you can safely, or comfortably, travel in a rig, what with the typical condition of the backroads in an area where pavement is as rare as rimrock in a metropolitan downtown.)

One of the bigger bare stretches on the map is also one I had been hankering to revisit since I first ventured there with my dad about 20 years ago.

This is the area west of Owyhee Reservoir and south of Highway 20.

To put into perspective the scale of this region, from Vale, the nearest paved road to the south — Highway 95 at Jordan Valley — is about 75 miles away.

To the southwest, Highway 78 — which runs from Burns to Burns Junction, where it meets Highway 95 — is about 60 miles, with not a single settlement between.

This is not a place to have a flat tire and no spare.

A place where the whine of a starter that fails to get the engine running is perhaps the most frightening sound imaginable.

A place, perhaps most importantly, where a nearly full tank of gas is the best sort of insurance.

This region is probably best known, at least in the past few decades, for the interest that multiple mining com-



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

The Dry Creek arm of Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County south of Vale.

panies have shown in the microscopic, but extensive, gold deposits around Grassy Mountain, about 22 miles south of Vale.

Paramount Nevada is the firm currently working on a proposal to extract the precious metal.

Until the heavy equipment arrives, though, the area is fantastically lonely.

As is the case with most of Oregon's southeast corner, the Owyhee country is primarily sagebrush steppe, the famous high desert in the rain shadow that the Cascade Mountains cast across much of Oregon.

But it is hardly the featureless, monotonous landscape that the scarcity of words on large-scale maps, such as an Oregon highway map, implies.

Once you leave the irrigated valley of the Malheur River near Vale, the Twin Springs road climbs ridges, dips into dry gulches and passes rimrock outcrops and water-sculpted badlands. Geologically speaking this is volcanic country, the rocks predominantly basalt and rhyolite, with layers of volcanic ash in places.

The lone oasis in the approximately 37 miles south of Highway 20 is Twin Springs campground. Formerly a homestead, the property was returned to public ownership in 1963.

The road was in relatively good shape when we drove it on April 3, the berms left by the grader's recent passage still looking fresh. But that changes a few miles south of Twin Springs, as the road descends into a gulch that leads to Dry Creek. The stretches of steep, boulder-strewn road are

best-suited for a high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicle.

I was drawn to Dry Creek not only because so many years had passed since I went this way, but also because I had only recently realized that one of Oregon's most unusual enclaves of vacation cabins is nearby.

When my dad and I were here we drove just a short distance along the Dry Creek Road, dissuaded, as near as I can recall, by the boulders and by the uncertainty that we would actually reach the reservoir.

But a while back I happened to be gliding over Owyhee Reservoir, courtesy of Google Earth, when I noticed a cluster of structures on the south shore of the reservoir's Dry Creek arm, one of its longest coves.

This piqued my curiosity, and prompted our April 3 trip.

We parked just before the Dry Creek ford, not because the crossing posed any challenge but because we wanted to get in a hike.

(The stream, despite its desert-appropriate name, carries a significant volume of water in early spring, swollen, I'm sure, by snowmelt.)

That day before Easter was the warmest so far, the temperature in the mid 70s, and I was reminded that midsummer is an unpleasant, and potentially dangerous, time to travel through this remote country.

It's only a mile or so to the reservoir, even in its depleted condition — a little more than half full on the day we visited.

There are a dozen or so cabins, in various sizes and types of construction, on the shore. I had learned that these

If You Go ...

From the west end of Vale, drive about four miles and turn left on Russell Road, at a sign for Twin Springs and Dry Creek.

Drive south for about 15 miles. At a prominent, but unsigned, junction, turn right and continue south toward the power transmission line. Twin Springs campground is about 12.5 miles south of the junction.

From Twin Springs, continue south for four miles to the Dry Springs Road. The last mile or so is rocky and rough as the road descends into a canyon. Just after crossing Dry Creek — a rocky ford; there is no bridge — turn left, at a cattle guard, onto Dry Creek Road. This road has some rough patches that demand four-wheel drive and high ground clearance. If you decide to walk, it's only about one mile to the Dry Creek Arm of Owyhee Reservoir.

privately owned structures are on public land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency that built Owyhee Dam in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

It's a stark landscape, the contrast dramatic between the reservoir and the desiccated lands that surround it.

But it's also a compelling place, beautiful in spite of its emptiness, its very remoteness an attraction.

weather

TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Patchy clouds	A blend of sun and clouds	Increasing clouds	Clouds and sunshine	Partly sunny and pleasant
Baker City 36 Comfort Index™ 8	60 31 7	66 39 10	63 30 9	73 39 10
La Grande 42 Comfort Index™ 10	59 35 8	64 44 10	64 33 9	76 45 10
Enterprise 37 Comfort Index™ 9	53 33 7	61 43 10	59 36 9	72 45 9

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	81°	84°	84°
Low Thursday	37°	38°	37°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.57	0.15	0.54
Normal month to date	0.81	1.52	1.93
Year to date	1.66	5.84	13.71
Normal year to date	3.01	5.75	9.63

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	35%	
Afternoon wind	NNW at 8 to 16 mph	
Hours of sunshine	6.0	
Evapotranspiration	0.16	

RESERVOIR STORAGE	THROUGH MIDNIGHT FRIDAY	
Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity	
Unity Reservoir	99% of capacity	
Owyhee Reservoir	57% of capacity	
McKay Reservoir	96% of capacity	
Wallowa Lake	63% of capacity	
Thief Valley Reservoir	100% of capacity	

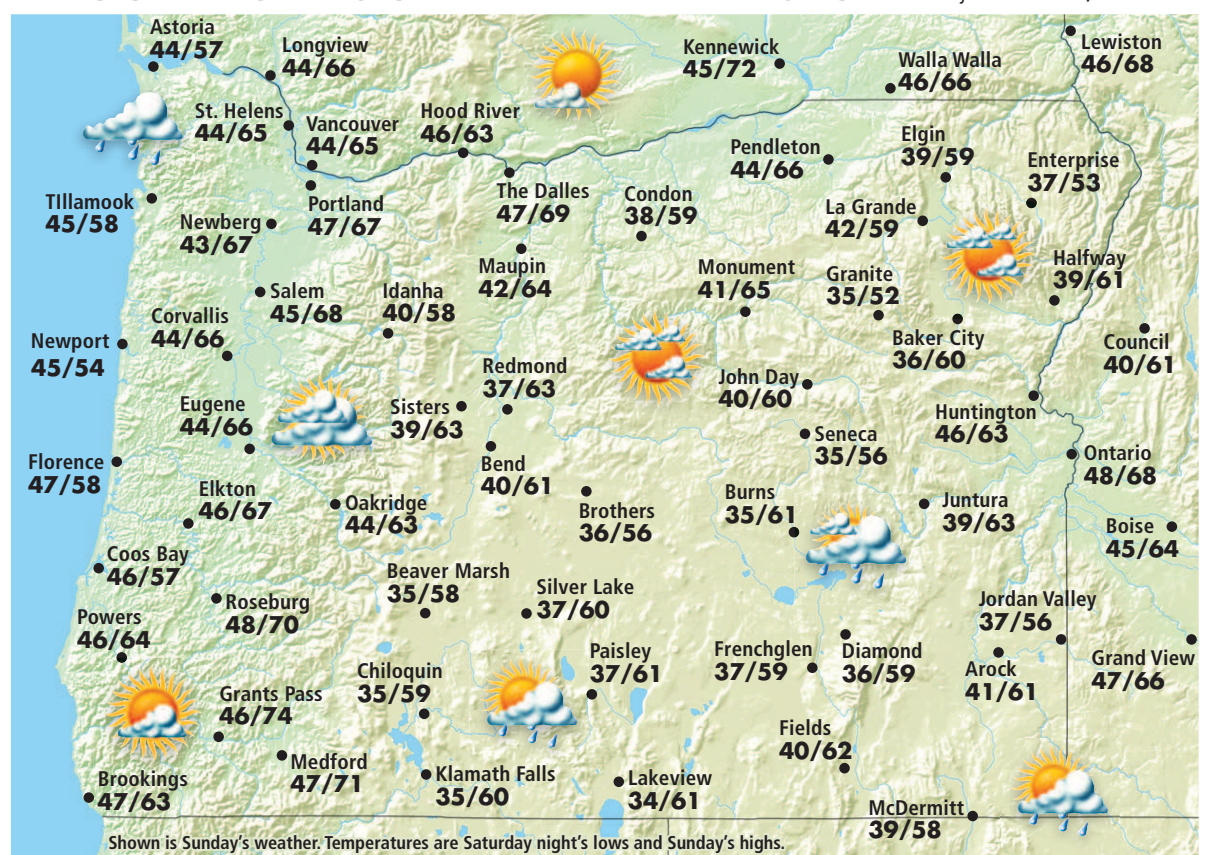
STREAM FLOWS	THROUGH MIDNIGHT THURSDAY	
Grande Ronde at Troy	6170	34 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	34	cfs
Burnt River near Unity	132	cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	913	cfs
Minam River at Minam	980	cfs
Powder River near Richland	78	cfs

SUN & MOON			
SAT.		SUN.	
Sunrise	5:41 a.m.	Sunrise	5:39 a.m.
Sunset	7:59 p.m.	Sunset	8:00 p.m.
Moonrise	12:54 a.m.	Moonrise	1:50 a.m.
Moonset	9:22 a.m.	Moonset	10:29 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	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	57/42/c	55/45/sh	Lewiston	68/42/pc	70/50/pc
Bend	61/33/c	66/34/pc	Longview	66/41/c	57/46/c
Boise	64/41/s	67/46/pc	Meacham	59/32/pc	64/45/pc
Brookings	63/46/pc	61/47/s	Medford	71/41/pc	74/48/s
Burns	61/29/pc	66/36/pc	Newport	54/42/c	54/45/sh
Coos Bay	57/40/c	57/45/pc	Olympia	65/38/c	54/41/c
Corvallis	66/39/c	62/45/c	Ontario	68/44/pc	73/49/pc
Council	61/35/pc	68/41/pc	Pasco	72/39/pc	72/44/c
Elgin	59/32/pc	64/43/pc	Pendleton	66/41/pc	68/46/pc
Eugene	66/39/c	67/46/c	Portland	67/45/c	60/47/sh
Hermiston	71/46/pc	72/50/pc	Powers	64/43/c	66/48/pc
Hood River	63/43/pc	64/48/c	Redmond	63/29/c	66/36/c
Idanha	61/36/pc	67/45/pc	Roseburg	70/43/c	70/49/pc
John Day	60/32/pc	65/42/pc	Salem	68/42/c	63/46/c
Joseph	52/33/pc	61/42/pc	Spokane	64/39/pc	62/42/c
Kennewick	72/41/pc	73/45/c	The Dalles	69/43/pc	67/48/pc
Klamath Falls	60/30/pc	66/32/s	Ukiah	57/28/pc	62/37/pc
Lakeview	61/28/pc	66/31/s	Walla Walla	66/44/pc	66/47/pc

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	PHILLIPS LAKE
Colder	Periods of sun
30 19	54 28
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Partly sunny	Sunny intervals
45 32	61 34
EAGLE CAMP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
A.M. snow showers	Clouds and sun
39 23	53 27
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Cooler	Clouds and sun
52 33	64 38
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Winds subsiding	Partly sunny
60 31	59 35