

Discovery of ring complicates imminent engagement



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: Over the weekend, while I was cleaning and reorganizing our bedroom, I found the engagement ring my boyfriend plans on proposing to me with. I didn't know he was planning to ask the big question, and I'm thrilled that he is going to. I haven't even hinted that I know anything is going on because I don't want to ruin the surprise more than I already have.

My problem is, I hate the ring he chose. It's beautiful, but, Abby, it's so big. I like dainty jewelry,

and it is the complete opposite of anything I would ever choose for myself. What do I do? I love this man with my whole heart. He's my best friend, and we have been there for each other through the lowest of lows and the highest of highs. We have great communication and always keep things completely honest between us. I suppose I should suck it up. He chose this ring for me, and I don't want to hurt his feelings. Please tell me what to do. — **Disappointed In Illinois**

Dear Disappointed: Congratulations on your upcoming engagement. Your problem is unique because most of the letters I receive about engagement rings come from women who are disappointed that the stone is so

small. However, if the size of the stone in the ring your boyfriend is giving you makes you uncomfortable, your response — after an enthusiastic “YES!!!” — could be, “But, darling, this stone is so large we will have to hire an armed guard to accompany me if I wear it outside the house. Are you sure it's wise for me to wear this every day? I would be very happy with something more modest, you know.” (It's worth a try.)

Dear Abby: I have always been too kind and polite. I give money I shouldn't, say yes to favors I don't want to do and keep my mouth shut in situations where I should speak up. My best friend once told me I shouldn't say what she needed to hear, but only what she wanted to hear.

I have been in therapy for two years now, and have finally reached the point where I'm learning to say no. I love that when I meet strangers, I can use the skills I'm learning and be more assertive.

My friends and family are having a hard time with it. I broke up with the bestie because our relationship had been not only long, but also toxic and abusive. Other people I come in contact with now seem shocked if I say no or voice an opinion of my own. They then proceed to pressure me to change my mind, which makes me transform back into a mouse and comply so I won't seem rude. How can I get them to understand — in a polite way — that I am changing for the better, which

includes putting myself, my needs and my decisions between yes and no first? — **Looking Out For Number One**

Dear Looking Out: You and your therapist appear to have been doing some good work. Of course people who hear you say no or state your honest opinion are having trouble with it. That's not the person you were. You are becoming a new person, someone with whom they are not used to dealing. Keep in mind that when someone asks you to do something you would rather not do, you always have the right to refuse. And when you are pressured to change your opinion, what you should say is, “Intelligent minds can differ,” or, “I'm entitled to my opinion.” It's the truth.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Vulgar vanity plates banned in Maine

New regulation aims to clean up the language on streets, highways

By **DAVID SHARP**
The Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine — Removing the flipping obscenities from license plates on Maine's roads and highways isn't going to happen overnight, even though a law banning such profanities in a state where such regulation has been unusually lax went into effect Monday, Oct. 18.

Currently, there are license plates with salty language including f-bombs, references to anatomy and sex acts, and general insults.

One license plate says simply, “F—YOU” — except that on the plate, it's plainly spelled out.

Now, rule-making is getting underway to ensure the law protects First Amendment rights while getting rid of obscene language.

The process, which includes public comment, could take between two to four months, Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said.

Requests for so-called vanity license plates that are deemed to be potentially offensive will be on hold in the meantime. Eventually, the state will

begin recalling previously issued plates, likely this winter.

“Rule-making will delay the process of active removal of plates from the road but will help us balance the free speech rights of citizens and the public interest of removing inappropriate license plates,” she said.

A majority of states have restrictions on license plate messages that are considered profane, sexually suggestive, racist, drug related, politically objectionable or religiously offensive.

But Maine became the “wild, wild, wild west of vanity license plates” when the state dropped its review process in 2015. “Our anything-goes approach was unusual,” Bellows said.

As a former executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, Bellows understands the importance of the First Amendment protections on free speech. But she acknowledged

she didn't understand the extent of “really disturbing” license plates before she was sworn in as secretary of state earlier this year.

There have been lawsuits over the issue in other states.

Last year, a federal judge ruled that California couldn't enforce a ban on vanity license plates it considers “offensive to good taste and decency.” The California law was overly broad, so states must be careful to target license

“If you really want an offensive slogan on your car, then you can use a bumper sticker.”

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who said that as many as 400 license plates may be recalled to get rid of salty language

plates that are profane or obscene, or represent hate speech.

In Maine, there are about 121,000 vanity license plates on the roads in a state with about 1.3 million residents. An estimated 400 offensive plates could be subject to recall, officials said.

Bellows said she's looking at it this way: “If you can't say it on the 6 o'clock news, it shouldn't be on a license plate.”



Robert F. Bukaty/The Associated Press, File
Traffic approaches Maine Turnpike toll booths in Gardiner, Maine, in this Feb. 2011 file photo. A Maine law banning obscene license plates went into effect Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, but getting the foul language off the roads and highways won't happen overnight.

“The license plate is the property of the state,” she

said. “If you really want an offensive slogan on your

car, then you can use a bumper sticker.”

WINDOWS 10 UPGRADE

Still running unsupported Windows 7? We'll help you avoid critical issues by installing Windows 10!

HARD DRIVE UPGRADE

Computer not running as fast as when it was new? Let us install lightning-fast solid state drive!

FAST AND RELIABLE!

Outstanding Computer Repair

Dale Bogardus 541-297-5831

Mobile Computer Repair LET US COME TO YOU! Call or Text - 24/7

All credit cards accepted

weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Baker City	Cloudy with showers late 48 Comfort Index™ 10	Cooler with heavy rain 56 34 0	Cloudy with a little rain 52 35 0	Cloudy, showers; breezy 50 40 0	Cloudy with a few showers 52 31 0
La Grande	49 Comfort Index™ 10	50 42 0	53 42 0	53 45 0	53 39 1
Enterprise	48 Comfort Index™ 10	50 36 0	53 35 5	50 44 0	52 42 3

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 Tuesday	65°	68°	67°
Low Tuesday	20°	26°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.04	0.07	0.19
Normal month to date	0.34	0.81	1.07
Year to date	3.62	7.45	16.60
Normal year to date	7.20	12.81	17.94

AGRICULTURAL INFO. HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	70%
Afternoon wind	SSW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	3.4
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	10% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	10% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	20% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	3% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	583 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	17 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	45 cfs
Minam River at Minam	52 cfs
Powder River near Richland	3 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 92° Zapata, Texas
Low: 2° Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 1.67" Lander, Wyo.

OREGON
High: 68° Ontario
Low: 20° Burns
Wettest: Trace Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

On Oct. 21, 1991, dry winds fanned a wildfire in the Oakland, Calif., area. A wet spring, then a windy, hot fall causes the highest fire danger on the West Coast.

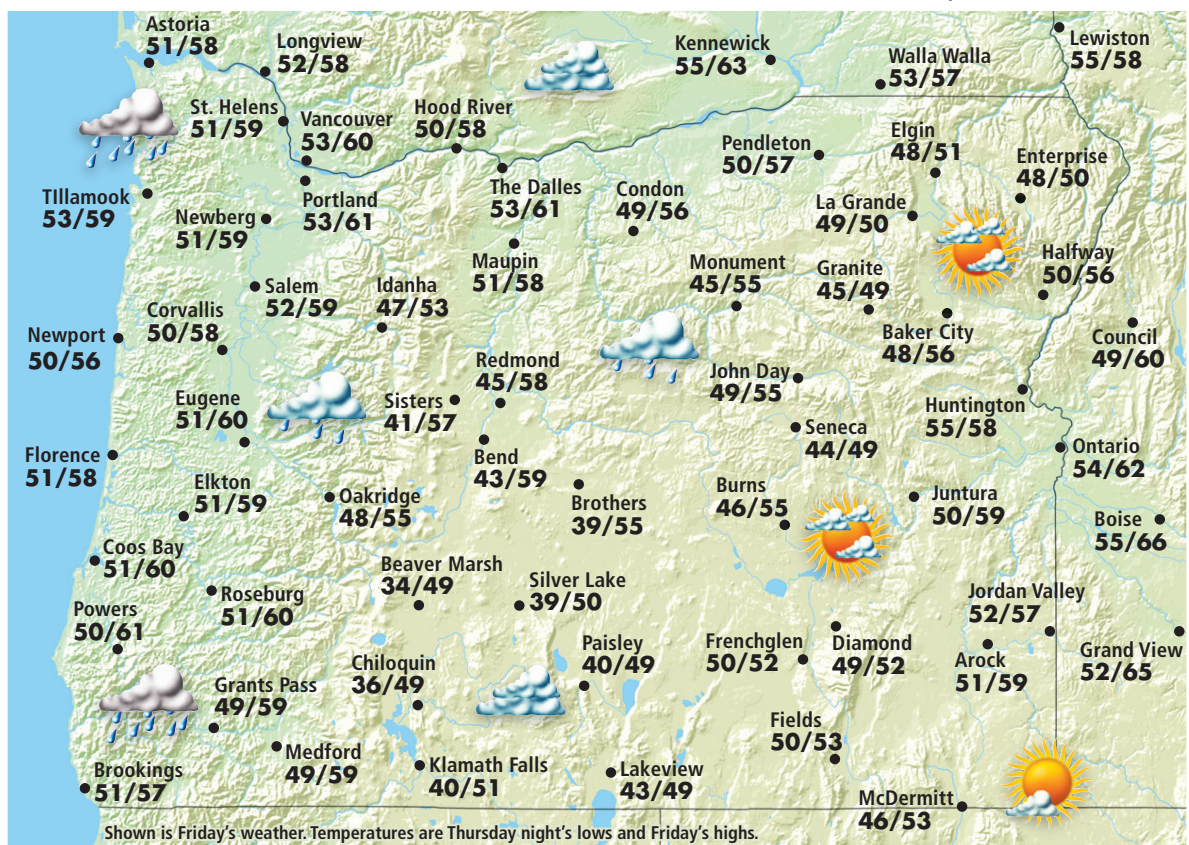
SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:17 a.m.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset	5:57 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
Moonrise	6:39 p.m.	7:03 p.m.
Moonset	8:15 a.m.	9:21 a.m.

MOON PHASES

	Last	New	First	Full
	Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 19

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI.		SAT.	
	Hi/Low	W	Hi/Low	W
Astoria	58/50	r	56/45	r
Bend	59/45	r	56/42	r
Boise	66/44	c	58/44	c
Brookings	57/48	r	56/49	r
Burns	55/32	r	57/49	r
Coos Bay	60/51	r	49/32	r
Corvallis	58/47	r	57/43	r
Council	60/37	r	51/40	c
Elgin	51/41	r	53/40	r
Eugene	60/48	r	57/48	r
Hermiston	62/47	sh	63/46	r
Hood River	58/48	r	53/45	r
Imnaha	58/47	r	56/42	c
John Day	55/43	r	53/43	r
Joseph	51/37	r	49/36	c
Kennewick	63/46	sh	61/46	c
Klamath Falls	51/38	r	47/40	r
Lakeview	49/32	sh	45/37	r
Lewiston	58/45	sh	59/45	sh
Longview	58/52	r	55/48	r
Meacham	49/40	r	52/41	r
Medford	59/46	r	56/46	r
Newport	56/49	r	55/46	r
Olympia	56/44	r	60/45	c
Ontario	62/42	r	62/45	c
Pasco	63/44	sh	62/45	c
Pendleton	57/46	sh	57/44	r
Portland	61/52	r	57/49	r
Powers	61/50	r	58/46	r
Redmond	58/41	sh	55/40	r
Roseburg	60/50	r	56/49	r
Salem	59/51	r	57/47	r
Spokane	52/41	sh	52/40	sh
The Dalles	61/48	r	57/46	r
Ukiah	48/38	r	49/36	r
Walla Walla	57/46	sh	58/46	c

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Morning rain	39 24		PHILLIPS LAKE Heavy rain; cooler	48 35	
MT. EMILY REC. Heavy rain; chilly	45 35		BROWNLEE RES. Cooler with rain	58 40	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Periods of rain	41 26		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Heavy rain; cooler	44 34	
WALLOWA LAKE Heavy rain; cooler	51 37		MCKAY RESERVOIR Showers; cooler	56 45	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Heavy rain; cooler	56 34		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Heavy rain; cooler	50 42	