

Marriage sours as details spill out for all to see



DEAR ABBY ADVICE

Dear Abby: My husband of 16 years has been airing our dirty laundry to anyone who will listen, including my 35-year-old son. We live in a small town and have lots of ties here. People who were once quick to come up and say hi no longer do so. In fact, most are avoiding me by heading in the opposite direction in the stores or in parking lots.

I have asked my husband to keep our business between us

and not discuss our personal lives with others, but he continues to do it anyway. His mother is the go-to for him and she has now canceled our Saturday outings. I'm so disgusted by all of this that I want to end the marriage.

The home we live in is mine — I paid in full for it before I met him, and it is all I have. I have asked him to leave, but he refuses, saying he's going to "take me for everything and more." Should I hire an attorney at the risk of possibly making things worse, or wait until things calm down? — **Afraid And Confused In California**

Dear Afraid: Do not wait for

things to "calm down." In light of what your husband has threatened, it is extremely important that you start talking to lawyers about what's going on and how to protect yourself. Talk to several because you can gain a wider perspective. While you may not be able to salvage your reputation in that community because of what your husband has been spreading, you will be able to prevent him from fleecing you. Please accept my sympathy.

Dear Abby: I have a good friend who wants to help everyone. She has been in a relationship with a man for 25 years. She does not get along with his

40-something-year-old son, who lives with and mooches off his dad. He also has his 8-year-old grandson living there. Because her boyfriend has always promised marriage, she hangs on.

The son is a drug addict and not supposed to be around the grandson, but everyone enables everyone. My friend finally moved out a few years ago, but she is back again. The boyfriend is now battling cancer and has her there to help the grandson with online learning and to take care of all three of them — cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, rides to doctors and cooking.

Her boyfriend is retired now and has a lot of money, and his house is paid off. She's 63 and thinks if he dies, she'll get a portion of his estate, but he won't put anything in writing. I keep telling her she's a fool and he won't change. Is she wasting the golden years of her life? — **Involved Friend In Minnesota**

Dear Involved: Yup! The "boyfriend" has her exactly where he wants her — as a source of free labor and with no guarantee about her future. If it is security she's hoping for, I regretfully agree that she's wasting the golden years of her life.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

How 'Let's Go Brandon' became code for insulting Joe Biden

By COLLEEN LONG
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Republican Rep. Bill Posey of Florida ended an Oct. 21 House floor speech with a fist pump and the phrase "Let's go, Brandon" it may have seemed cryptic and weird to many who were listening. But the phrase was already growing in right-wing circles, and now the seemingly upbeat sentiment — actually a stand-in for swearing at Joe Biden — is everywhere.

South Carolina Republican Jeff Duncan wore a "Let's Go Brandon" face mask at the Capitol last week. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz posed with a "Let's Go Brandon" sign at the World Series. Sen. Mitch McConnell's press secretary retweeted a photo of the phrase on a construction sign in Virginia.

The line has become conservative code for something far more vulgar: "F--- Joe Biden." It's all the rage among Republicans wanting to prove their conservative credentials, a not-so-secret handshake that signals they're in sync with the party's base.

Americans are accustomed to their leaders being publicly jeered, and former President Donald Trump's coarse language seemed to expand the boundaries of what counts as normal political speech.

But how did Republicans settle on the Brandon phrase as a G-rated substitute for its more vulgar three-word cousin?

It started at an Oct. 2 NASCAR race at the Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. Brandon Brown, a 28-year-old driver, had won his first Xfinity Series and was being interviewed by an NBC Sports reporter. The crowd behind him was chanting something at first difficult to make out. The reporter suggested



A sign reading "Let's go Brandon" is displayed on the railing in the first half of an NCAA college football game between Boston College and Syracuse in Syracuse, N.Y., Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. Critics of President Joe Biden have come up with the cryptic new phrase to insult the Democratic president.

they were chanting "Let's go, Brandon" to cheer the driver. But it became increasingly clear they were saying: "F--- Joe Biden."

NASCAR and NBC have since taken steps to limit "ambient crowd noise" during interviews, but it was too late — the phrase already had taken off.

When the president visited a construction site in suburban Chicago a few weeks ago to promote his vaccinate-or-test mandate, protesters deployed both three-word phrases.

This past week, Biden's motorcade was driving past a "Let's Go Brandon" banner as the president passed through Plainfield, New Jersey.

And a group chanted "Let's go, Brandon" outside a Virginia park on Monday when Biden made an appearance on behalf of the Democratic candidate for governor, Terry McAuliffe. Two protesters

dropped the euphemism entirely, holding up hand-drawn signs with the profanity. Veteran GOP ad maker Jim Innocenzi had no qualms about the coded crudity, calling it "hilarious."

"Unless you are living in a cave, you know what it means," he said. "But it's done with a little bit of a class. And if you object and are taking it too seriously, go away."

America's presidents have endured meanness for centuries; Grover Cleveland faced chants of "Ma, Ma Where's my Pa?" in the 1880s over rumors he'd fathered an illegitimate child. Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson were the subject of poems that leaned into racist tropes and allegations of bigamy.

"We have a sense of the dignity of the office of president that has consistently been violated to our horror over the course of Amer-

ican history," said Cal Jillson, a politics expert and professor in the political science department at Southern Methodist University. "We never fail to be horrified by some new outrage."

There were plenty of old outrages.

"F--- Trump" graffiti still marks many an overpass in Washington, D.C. George W. Bush had a shoe thrown in his face. Bill Clinton was criticized with such fervor that his most vocal critics were labeled the "Clinton crazies."

The biggest difference, though, between the sentiments hurled at the Grover Cleverlands of yore and modern politicians is the amplification they get on social media.

"Before the expansion of social media a few years ago, there wasn't an easily accessible public forum to shout your nastiest and darkest public opinions," said

Matthew Delmont, a history professor at Dartmouth College.

Even the racism and vitriol to which former President Barack Obama was subjected was tempered in part because Twitter was relatively new. There was no TikTok. As for Facebook, leaked company documents have recently revealed how the platform increasingly ignored hate speech and misinformation and allowed it to proliferate.

A portion of the U.S. was already angry well before the Brandon moment, believing the 2020 presidential election was rigged despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

But anger has now moved beyond die-hard Trump supporters, said Stanley Renshon, a political scientist at the City University of New York.

He cited the Afghanistan withdrawal, the southern border situation and rancorous school board debates as situations in which increasing numbers who were not vocally anti-Biden now feel that "how American institutions are telling the American public what they clearly see and understand to be true, is in fact not true."

Trump hasn't missed the moment. His Save America PAC now sells a \$45 T-shirt featuring "Let's go Brandon" above an American flag. One message to supporters reads, "#FJB or LET'S GO BRANDON? Either way, President Trump wants YOU to have our ICONIC new shirt."

And as for the real Brandon, things haven't been so great. He drives for a short-staffed, underfunded team owned by his father. And while that win — his first career victory — was huge for him, the team has long struggled for sponsorship and existing partners have not been marketing the driver since the slogan.

weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Partly to mostly cloudy	A shower in the afternoon	Cloudy, showers around	Showers around	Clouds and sun	
Baker City	32	53 37	50 28	47 26	46 30
La Grande	40	53 40	50 34	46 31	46 36
Enterprise	34	55 40	45 31	42 28	43 37

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	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
TEMPERATURES			
High Tuesday	56°	57°	57°
Low Tuesday	37°	41°	43°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	Trace	Trace	0.06
Month to date	0.05	0.09	0.06
Normal month to date	0.04	0.12	0.15
Year to date	4.40	8.49	18.57
Normal year to date	7.52	13.70	19.18

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY
Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.5
Evapotranspiration	0.07

RESERVOIR STORAGE	THU.	FRI.
Phillips Reservoir	N.A.	
Unity Reservoir	11% of capacity	
Owyhee Reservoir	12% of capacity	
McKay Reservoir	15% of capacity	
Wallowa Lake	5% of capacity	
Thief Valley Reservoir	1% of capacity	

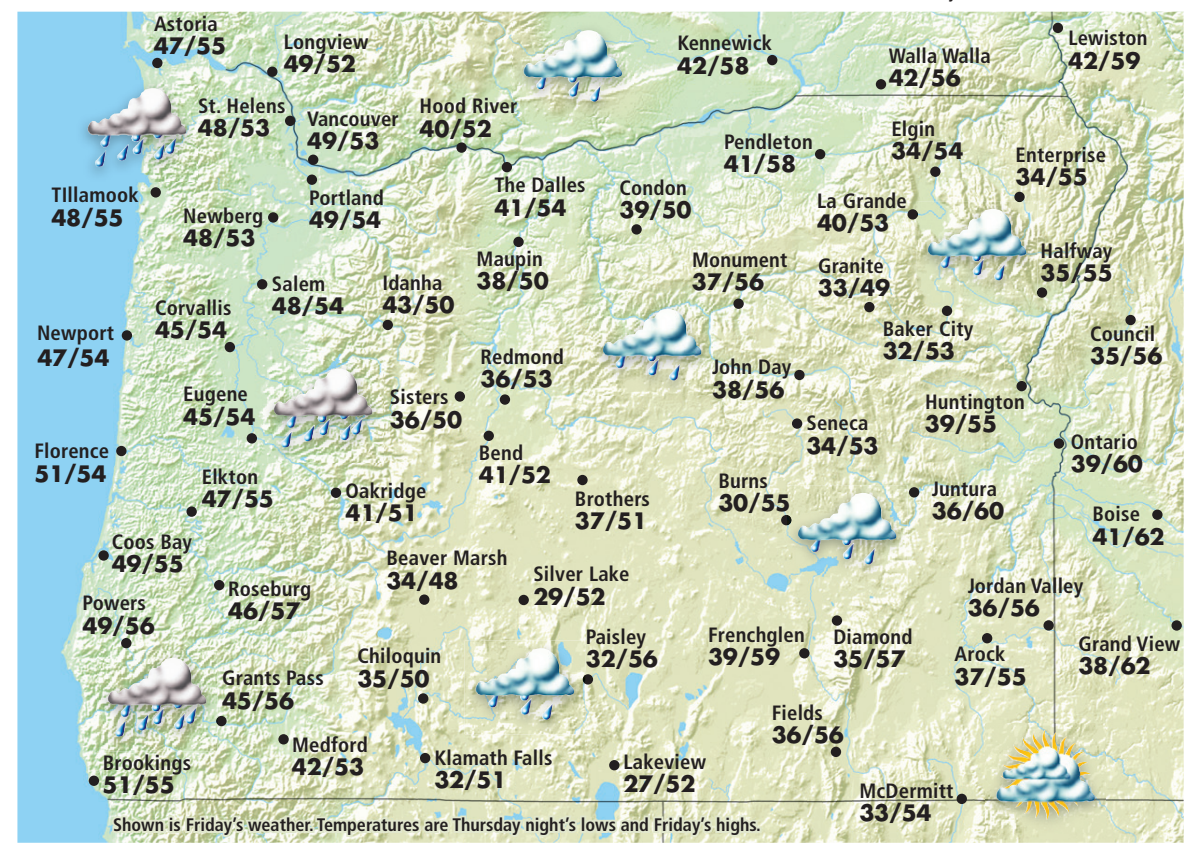
STREAM FLOWS	THU.	FRI.
Grande Ronde at Troy	719 cfs	
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs	
Burnt River near Unity	18 cfs	
Umatilla River near Gibbon	44 cfs	
Minam River at Minam	93 cfs	
Powder River near Richland	8 cfs	

WEATHER HISTORY
Until a cold wave on Nov. 4, 1991, sent temperatures down to 3 below zero, Minneapolis had never had subzero cold so early. However, this city has endured January mornings with temperatures of 40 below zero.

SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	7:36 a.m.
Sunset	5:35 p.m.
Moonrise	7:13 a.m.
Moonset	5:42 p.m.

MOON PHASES	
New	Nov 4
First	Nov 11
Full	Nov 19
Last	Nov 27

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES	FRI.	SAT.	RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY
Astoria	55/46/r	51/44/r	ANTHONY LAKES: A bit of p.m. snow
Bend	52/40/r	46/33/sh	35 27
Boise	62/48/pc	57/38/c	MT. EMILY REC.: Showers around
Brookings	55/48/sh	53/47/r	43 36
Burns	55/36/r	51/26/sh	EAGLE CAP WILD.: A bit of p.m. snow
Coos Bay	55/47/sh	52/44/r	37 29
Corvallis	54/44/sh	51/41/r	WALLOWA LAKE: Cloudy
Council	56/42/c	51/37/sh	51 39
Elgin	54/38/sh	50/34/sh	THIEF VALLEY RES.: Mostly cloudy
Eugene	54/44/sh	53/40/r	53 37
Hermiston	51/42/c	60/36/sh	PHILLIPS LAKE: Mostly cloudy
Hood River	52/42/sh	52/38/r	49 37
Idanha	57/47/c	52/34/sh	BROWNLEE RES.: Mostly cloudy
John Day	56/43/c	54/40/sh	56 44
Joseph	51/39/c	45/31/sh	EMIGRANT ST. PARK: Showers around
Kennewick	58/41/c	59/40/c	50 34
Klamath Falls	51/38/pc	46/27/pc	MCKAY RESERVOIR: A shower
Lakeview	52/36/c	46/28/pc	59 44
Lewiston	59/44/c	53/38/sh	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK: A shower
Longview	52/43/r	52/41/r	53 40
Meacham	54/40/sh	49/34/sh	
Medford	53/46/sh	54/39/r	
Newport	54/45/sh	51/44/r	
Olympia	53/39/r	49/39/r	
Ontario	60/45/c	59/37/c	
Pasco	58/40/c	57/39/c	
Pendleton	58/42/c	53/38/sh	
Portland	56/48/sh	54/44/r	
Powers	54/45/sh	54/44/r	
Redmond	53/37/c	52/32/sh	
Roseburg	57/47/sh	53/42/r	
Salem	54/45/sh	52/43/r	
Spokane	52/36/r	48/35/sh	
The Dalles	54/40/c	52/37/sh	
Ukiah	54/40/c	48/32/sh	
Walla Walla	56/42/r	52/39/sh	

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