

Marriage reeling after family's horrific loss



DEAR ABBY ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: Our house burned down a year ago, and we lost everything. My husband, “Jeff,” tried desperately to get to our 2-year-old daughter, but she perished in the fire. I managed to get our 3-year-old son out while he was trying to save our daughter. Jeff ended up in a burn unit on a ventilator for nine days because he burned his lungs. When he was released from the hospital, things got worse.

We lived with my mom and stepdad for a bit until we found a

place, but as soon as Jeff got home, he started hitting me and calling me a cheating slut. We have been together 20 years, and I have been faithful. If I go to the store or to run errands, he gets mad at me for being gone a little too long. If I try to explain what held me up, it's automatically because I'm cheating, but Jeff feels he can leave and be gone for hours, and it's OK for him.

I love him, but I can't take it anymore. When our son acts out and starts being mean to me, Jeff tells him to respect me, but I think to myself, “How can you tell him to respect me when you don't?” Abby, please help me. — **SO LOST IN THE EAST**

DEAR SO LOST: The fire and tragic death of your daughter has done more damage to your husband than tear his lungs. It has also taken an emotional toll. It is important that you no longer allow him to take out his anger and frustration with himself on you.

If you have any power at all in your relationship, insist he seek help from a licensed mental health professional. If he refuses, you cannot remain married to him because his physical and emotional abuse may continue to escalate, and seeing it will affect your son.

Have an escape plan in place before you confront him. A safe way to formulate one would be to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is 800-799-7233 and the website is

thet hotline.org. Do it now.

DEAR ABBY: My high school friend returns to our hometown once or twice a year. Her last several visits were exhausting. She talked about herself for hours without asking one question about my life. She objectifies men and calls people weak for expressing their emotions.

Our friendship has been a long one. I went to her wedding and did the flowers for her dad's funeral. But the more I understand myself, the more I see how toxic she is for me. I have reached the hard realization that I no longer want to be around her. I don't like who she is or how she makes me feel.

I would like us to simply drift apart, but she can be a bully. When

I have tried to be unavailable, she has bullied me into seeing her anyway. My partner says I need to break up with her, but I don't want to hurt her or have a confrontation. How can I gracefully exit this relationship? — **STRESSED IN THE WEST**

DEAR STRESSED: There may not be a graceful way to exit from a relationship with a bully. Ask yourself which would be worse: telling her exactly what you have written to me, or allowing yourself to be steamrolled into another exhausting and frustrating encounter with her. Once you have the answer to that question, you will know exactly what to do, which may start with blocking her number.

Realtors to conservatives living in liberal areas: Try Idaho

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
The Associated Press

SANDPOINT, Idaho — Linda Navarre moved to Sandpoint, Idaho, from Cleveland in 1978, when the town consisted of people in the timber industry and hippies “and they all got along.”

Now she barely recognizes the small resort community near the Canadian border that is quickly growing as people disenchanted with big city life move there. Many are conservatives fed up with liberal politics in blue states.

“The division gets wider and wider,” Navarre said, adding many of the new arrivals are changing the civility of the community. “My concern is there are so many people who are not nice.”

Sandpoint is a four-season resort town built along the shores of scenic Lake Pend Oreille. It had 7,300 residents in the 2010



Ruth Fremson/New York Times News Service, File
A guitarist plays in downtown Sandpoint, Idaho, a town of 8,900 on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille. The mayor of Sandpoint and many residents worry that the trend of a growing number of real estate companies advertising to conservatives that they can help people move out of liberal bastions like Seattle and San Francisco and find homes in places like rural Idaho is not good for their community.

Census, but grew 21% in the decade to about 8,900 in the 2020 Census. In addition to the natural beauty, “people come here because it's a red state,” said long-time resident Gail Cameron, 67.

To capitalize on that

trend, a growing number of real estate companies are advertising themselves to people on the right, saying they can take them out of liberal bastions like Seattle and San Francisco and find them homes in places like rural Idaho.

Sandpoint-based Flee the City is a consortium of four businesses that specialize in selling property to conservatives in northern Idaho and western Montana. The company calls itself “a real estate firm for the vigilant.”

Flee the City has partnered with a company that provides “sustainable homes design with integrated ballistic and defensive capabilities.”

Todd Savage, whose Black Rifle Real Estate firm is part of Flee the City, said in a brief email exchange that his business is booming, thanks to “insane” left wing politics.

One of the bigger players among right-leaning real estate companies is Conservative Move, based in a suburb of Dallas. Founder and chief executive Paul Chabot said blue states have only themselves to blame for driving out conservatives.

“People are tired of out-of-control crime and forced

masking,” Chabot said.

Idaho has been the fastest growing state in the nation for five years running, growing 2.9% in 2021, mostly from in-migration.

But the influx of people to places like Idaho has made it harder for some long-time residents. People struggle to find housing in Sandpoint, with many houses sold the same day they are listed, after bidding wars, Cameron said.

Many of those homes are converted into vacation rentals, which tightens the market for people who live in the area, Cameron said.

Carolyn Knaack, associate director of the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper conservation group, has lived in town for a year.

She said the confluence of the coronavirus pandemic and politics “has created a divisiveness among folks.”

“I've been applauded and belittled for wearing a mask,” she said. “I have

friends who refused to get vaccinated.”

Savage was asked if it was desirable for people to segregate themselves by political ideology.

“I don't agree with the term ‘segregate,’” he wrote. “Folks simply ‘vote with their feet’ relating to issues such as crime, taxes, homeschooling, gun laws, mask and vaccine mandates, Orwellian laws and out of control tyranny in the sanctuary states.”

Not everyone is a fan of what Savage and conservative real estate agencies are doing in Sandpoint and elsewhere.

Mayor Shelby Rognstad, a Democrat, worries real estate firms that serve only conservatives “pushes Idaho more and more into a playground for extremism.”

“It doesn't bode well for our sense of community here,” said Rognstad, who is mounting a campaign for governor. “It's a challenge to civility.”

LETTERS

Continued from Page B1

against Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Real Estate Commissioner Steve Strode, alleging that forbidding these communications violates their First Amendment rights.

Hernández's legal opinion acknowledges Oregon's “long and abhorrent history” of racist housing discrimination. He points to laws that outright prohibited people of color from owning

land in Oregon, as well as governmental policies and industry practices that continue to enable housing discrimination to this day.

Even so, Hernández says he doesn't think HB 2550 could stand against a First Amendment claim in court, mostly because it's too broad. Instead of specifically prohibiting “love letters,” the law bans all written communication outside of “customary documents.” The law doesn't specify what “customary documents” include.

Hernández suggests two alternatives that were originally included in Pacific Legal Foundation's legal claim. Lawmakers could allow love letters but require real estate agents to edit out any information that could reveal the buyer's race, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. On top of that, lawmakers could prohibit buyers from providing personal photos to sellers.

With this preliminary injunction, HB 2550 can't be enforced until Hernández makes a final decision.

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weather

TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Cloudy and cold	Mostly sunny and chilly	Periods of sun	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy with rain possible
17	43 23	49 30	48 30	46 34
Comfort Index™ 0	1	1	2	0
22	49 30	52 36	52 35	50 40
Comfort Index™ 2	4	4	4	2
14	44 27	52 31	49 31	49 43
Comfort Index™ 1	5	7	6	4

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		TUESDAY EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City La Grande Elgin	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)		
High Tuesday	42° 42° 43°	High: 91° Plant City, Fla.		
Low Tuesday	27° 30° 31°	Low: -32° Antero Reservoir, Colo.		
PRECIPITATION (inches)		Wettest: 3.82" Jackson, Miss.		
Tuesday	Trace 0.02 0.87	OREGON		
Month to date	0.02 0.21 0.87	High: 62° Brookings		
Normal month to date	0.17 0.42 0.63	Low: 21° Lakeview		
Year to date	0.41 2.08 6.42	Wettest: 0.55" Meacham		
Normal year to date	1.46 3.32 6.24			

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	35%
Afternoon wind	S at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	6.0
Evapotranspiration	0.09

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	4% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	37% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	25% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	51% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	29% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	63% of capacity

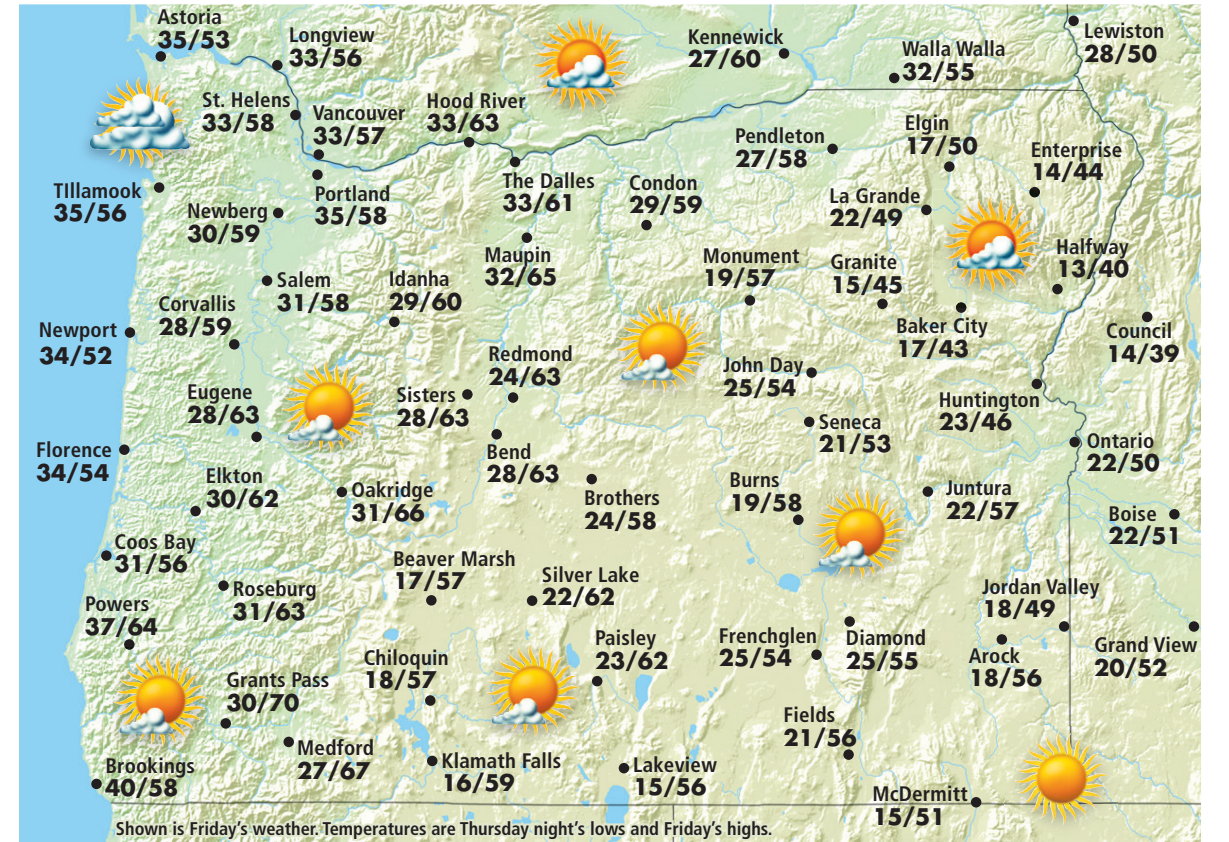
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	3310 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	6 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	279 cfs
Minam River at Minam	243 cfs
Powder River near Richland	45 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY		SUN & MOON	
Reddish snowfall in France on March 10, 1869, was feared to contain blood. Investigation revealed that the storm picked up red sand over the Sahara Desert, where it originated.			
THU.	FRI.	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise 6:15 a.m.	6:13 a.m.	Sunrise 6:15 a.m.	6:13 a.m.
Sunset 5:51 p.m.	5:53 p.m.	Moonrise 10:14 a.m.	10:59 a.m.
Moonset 1:46 a.m.	2:44 a.m.	MOON PHASES	
First		Full	
Last		New	
Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY			
City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Astoria	53/43/pc	51/43/r	Lewiston	50/38/c	56/41/c	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
Bend	63/32/s	63/36/s	Longview	56/37/pc	48/44/sh	31 22	46 21
Boise	51/30/s	61/38/r	Meacham	47/30/pc	55/35/pc	MT. EMILY REC. Mostly sunny	BROWNLEE RES. Some sun; chilly
Brookings	58/42/pc	51/45/r	Medford	67/33/pc	61/40/pc	39 30	45 24
Burns	58/27/s	60/33/s	Newport	52/40/s	56/44/sh	EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly sunny	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Some sun; milder
Coos Bay	56/35/pc	51/43/sh	Olympia	55/37/pc	60/42/c	31 21	46 23
Corvallis	59/34/s	52/41/sh	Ontario	50/26/s	59/39/s	WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny	MCKAY RESERVOIR Milder
Council	39/22/s	48/33/pc	Pasco	58/39/pc	62/34/r	43 28	57 36
Eugene	63/36/s	54/45/sh	Pendleton	58/38/pc	58/37/pc	THIEF VALLEY RES. Sunshine; chilly	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly sunny
Hermiston	62/37/s	59/43/sh	Portland	58/38/pc	51/45/sh	43 23	49 30
Hood River	63/35/pc	56/45/c	Powers	64/37/s	55/44/sh		
Imnaha	49/34/pc	55/34/c	Redmond	63/30/s	62/34/r		
John Day	54/32/s	62/35/pc	Roseburg	63/35/s	55/45/sh		
Joseph	43/28/s	51/31/pc	Salem	58/35/pc	53/45/sh		
Kennewick	60/39/pc	60/45/c	Spokane	44/35/c	47/37/pc		
Klamath Falls	59/21/pc	60/28/pc	The Dalles	61/37/s	59/44/r		
Lakeview	56/23/pc	55/32/s	Ukiah	51/28/s	57/32/r		
				Walla Walla	55/41/pc		

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