

Beau shows no desire to grow relationship



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Brent" for four years. Prior to meeting him, I was divorced with two children. Brent shows little interest in my kids' lives. He doesn't want us to live together before the kids are out of the house, and he never plans to get married. (My youngest is 10.)

Even if he would agree to move in now, I don't want to move to his city because my kids need to be close to their school, their friends and their father. Brent doesn't want to relocate

because it's heavily populated and he thinks my town is geared more toward a younger generation.

I really would like to take our relationship to the next level. I have been trying to do it for four years, but he ignores my subtle hints. I can't imagine life without him. I have even considered getting pregnant to make this relationship go further, in spite of knowing he doesn't want a baby. Advice? — **GETTING DESPERATE IN THE HEARTLAND**

DEAR GETTING DESPERATE: You have wasted four years of your life on the wrong man. Brent is centered on himself and would be a negative, disruptive influence in your children's

lives. Your first responsibility must be to them. If they were miserable, you would be too. Trust me on that.

As to the idea of "trapping" him by becoming pregnant in spite of the fact that he doesn't want to be a father — I don't recommend it. You could get a rude awakening and end up parenting a child you didn't really want all by yourself. So start imagining a life without him. It will be a happier one that way.

DEAR ABBY: I have a co-worker I enjoyed talking to and being around. I'm 27, and she is 41. We used to sit together at lunch and during our break. All of a sudden, she stopped sitting with me during the first break

but she still ate with me at lunch. Then she stopped eating with me at lunch!

I asked her if I said or did anything wrong and she said no. I asked her if she was avoiding me or had found something wrong, and she insisted there was nothing wrong and I worry too much. So now I sit alone and she sits somewhere else by herself with her phone. I was nice to her. We talked about our day and sometimes shared snacks during the break. All that is gone now.

I know people grow apart, but it stings. Being an adult means moving on, but when something happens for no apparent reason, there has to be an explanation. Can you share your insight on

this dilemma? — **LUNCHING ALONE**

DEAR LUNCHING

ALONE: There is always a reason. Perhaps you should believe your co-worker when she says you didn't do or say anything wrong. What may have changed are her circumstances. You mentioned that rather than sit with you, she now sits alone with her cellphone. It's possible that something is going on with her family — or her personal life that requires her attention. I know it stings, but you have to let it go. Find someone else to socialize with during breaks. It would be less painful if she explained it to you, but your co-worker may be a private person.

Time to retool census? Some think so after minorities missed

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Is it time to rethink the census and other surveys that measure changes in the U.S. population?

Policymakers and demographers have been asking that question since results released by the U.S. Census Bureau this month showed Black, Hispanic, American Indian and other minority residents were undercounted at greater rates in 2020 than in the previous decade.

On the top of that, results from a version of its most comprehensive survey that compares year-to-year changes in U.S. life had to be mostly scrapped because disruptions caused by the pandemic produced fewer responses in 2020.

"The current model of coming up with a master address list, mailing everybody an invitation — like you're inviting people to a party and hoping they respond, and if not, you're going to track them down



Jacquelyn Martin/The Associated Press, File

Census Bureau Director nominee Robert Santos testifies before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, Thursday, July 15, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Santos said Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, that he has gone on a listening tour with stakeholders and the agency is making permanent community outreach efforts in an effort to restore any trust that was lost following attempts by the Trump administration to politicize the nation's head count.

— I think it's an obsolete system," said Arturo Vargas, CEO of NALEO Educational Fund, a non-partisan nonprofit that supports Latino political engagement.

The undercounts in the 2020 census were blamed on the pandemic, natural disasters and political interference from the Trump

administration, but undercounts of racial and ethnic minorities are nothing new to the census; they've been persistent for decades.

In recent years, the cost of censuses and surveys have grown while public participation rates for surveys have declined. The bureau's biggest between-census effort to take the

measure of the U.S. population, the American Community Survey, produces 11 billion statistics from interviews with 3.5 million households each year, and the once-a-decade census tallies every U.S. resident for a count used in divvying up federal funding and congressional seats among the states as well as redrawing political districts.

"What we have today largely is still a 20th century, survey-centric statistical system," Ron Jarmin, the chief operating officer of the Census Bureau, said last December when he was serving as the agency's acting director.

Even before the release of the 2020 report card earlier this month, the Census Bureau had been developing new ways of gathering data. Chief among them is the embryonic Frames Program that would combine all kinds of data sets, including administrative records from the private sector and government agencies, as well as surveys and censuses that have been staples of Census

Bureau data-gathering for decades.

Under the concept, one data set such as an individual's IRS file would be linked to another, such as the individual's Census Bureau survey response. Eventually, data related to people's addresses, demographics, businesses and jobs would all be linked together.

In 2030, when the next census takes place, the program could help count people with good administrative records or links to other records, and more resources could be devoted toward households that are the hardest to count, Census Bureau Director Robert Santos said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

"We are looking to take advantage of existing technology, and that necessarily includes the merging of large databases on people, not to create a Big Brother society, but to supplement and reduce the burden on our population when it comes time to gather data," said Santos, who was

appointed by President Joe Biden.

Relying on administrative records may have its own problems because some groups, such as people in the country illegally, often have little paper trail.

Besides naming an unusually high number of political appointees to the Census Bureau, the Trump administration unsuccessfully attempted to use administrative records to get a tally of the number of people in the country illegally so they could be eliminated from the count used for allocating congressional seats.

Any effort to revamp how the count is conducted will need to be protected from similar efforts to misuse the count for political purposes, said Paul Ong, a professor emeritus of urban studies at UCLA.

"The 2020 enumeration was a wakeup call," Ong said. "The Census Bureau has a very important and fundamental function in our society. It is the keeper of our demographic truths."

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weather

TONIGHT Mainly clear	WED Partly sunny and mild	THU Times of clouds and sun	FRI Partly sunny and mild	SAT Mild with some sun
Baker City Comfort Index™ 9	63 37 10	60 34 8	64 38 10	68 37 10
La Grande Comfort Index™ 10	66 39 10	58 33 9	64 42 10	67 40 10
Enterprise Comfort Index™ 10	65 40 10	56 35 9	62 42 10	67 41 10

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	45°	46°	48°
Low Sunday	26°	32°	34°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	Trace	0.06
Month to date	0.06	0.47	1.56
Normal month to date	0.47	1.10	1.46
Year to date	0.45	2.34	7.11
Normal year to date	1.76	4.00	7.07

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 90°	Fort Myers, Fla.
Low: -6°	Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Wettest: 1.90"	Quillayute, Wash.
OREGON	
High: 57°	The Dalles
Low: 11°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 0.20"	Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

On March 22, 1784, an unusual cold snap in the Carolinas damaged buds on the peach trees. Most people look forward to mild weather as soon as the season begins, but winter often has a few more tricks.

SUN & MOON

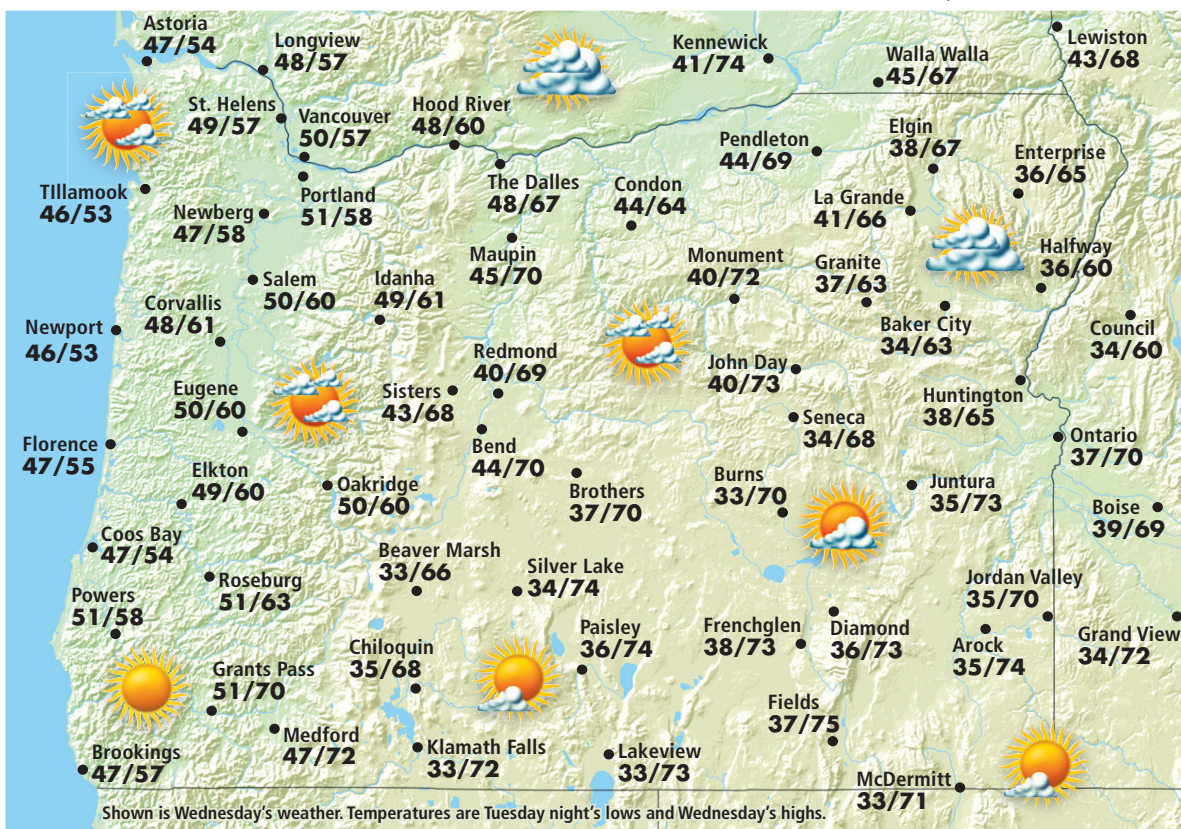
	TUE.	WED.
Sunrise	6:52 a.m.	6:50 a.m.
Sunset	7:07 p.m.	7:09 p.m.
Moonrise	none	12:54 a.m.
Moonset	9:08 a.m.	9:45 a.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	WED. HI/Lo/W	THU. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	54/39/r	55/40/c
Bend	70/38/pc	66/36/pc
Boise	69/43/s	66/41/pc
Brookings	57/45/c	59/44/pc
Burns	70/35/s	64/34/c
Coos Bay	54/41/r	58/38/c
Corvallis	61/38/c	59/39/pc
Council	60/38/s	57/32/pc
Elgin	67/39/pc	58/36/pc
Eugene	60/42/c	59/41/pc
Hermiston	74/41/pc	64/36/pc
Hood River	60/40/r	63/40/pc
Imnaha	70/46/pc	58/38/pc
John Day	73/37/pc	60/37/pc
Joseph	63/39/s	55/36/pc
Kennewick	74/41/pc	64/37/pc
Klamath Falls	72/30/s	71/28/pc
Lakeview	73/36/s	70/35/s
Lewiston	68/47/pc	60/41/s
Longview	57/38/r	59/39/c
Meacham	67/40/pc	57/33/pc
Medford	72/45/pc	74/41/c
Newport	53/39/r	54/41/pc
Olympia	55/37/r	57/36/c
Ontario	70/43/s	69/38/pc
Pasco	72/42/pc	66/37/pc
Pendleton	69/40/c	60/38/c
Portland	58/42/r	60/41/c
Powers	58/48/c	66/42/c
Redmond	69/38/pc	64/34/pc
Roseburg	63/47/c	68/41/c
Salem	60/38/r	59/39/c
Spokane	62/38/c	55/35/pc
The Dalles	67/42/c	65/42/pc
Ukiah	67/34/pc	58/34/pc
Walla Walla	67/43/c	59/40/c

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A shower	46 29	
MT. EMILY REC. Mild with some sun	55 37	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly sunny	48 27	
WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny; mild	63 39	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Mostly sunny; mild	63 37	
PHILLIPS LAKE Sunshine and mild	62 34	
BROWNLEE RES. Mostly sunny; nice	66 40	
EMIGRANT ST. PARK A p.m. shower	61 34	
MCKAY RESERVOIR Mainly cloudy	69 40	
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Partly sunny; mild	66 39	

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