

# Widower wonders if age creates boundary for intimacy



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife of 41 years passed away four years ago. I'm in my mid-60s. I have sought grief counseling to fully process her loss. The counselor has encouraged me to maintain and expand my peer relationships. The counselor has also encouraged dating, which I have tried, but no romances have resulted.

My wife was diagnosed with bipolar type 2 mental disorder, which progressed the longer she lived. When she died, I was glad she no longer had to suffer with her mental illness. With the onset

of menopause and the bipolar, her libido had dropped dramatically. The counselor has assured me that if romance develops, sexual relations can happen with women my age.

Because of my religious convictions, I will not have sexual relations before marriage. My question concerns a woman's desire for sexual relations at this stage of life. Are sexual relations something that can be mutually enjoyed, or just a requirement of marriage? — **WONDERING IN IOWA**

**DEAR WONDERING:** Allow me to put your concerns to rest. Seniors are not clones of each other. Some enjoy sex into their 80s; others do not. If both partners are comfortable

with their bodies and willing to accommodate the inevitable changes that come as their bodies age, they can enjoy sex as much as couples who are younger.

While your religious beliefs may not allow you to have sex before marriage, there is no reason why the subject can't be honestly discussed, and this is what I urge you to do if you become involved with someone.

**DEAR ABBY:** Recently, my daughter asked if her girlfriend could stay with us until the two of them move out in a month. To help them out, my husband and I agreed. The problem is, the girlfriend is very insecure about her weight. She's on the heavier side, and my daughter's weight is average. Some-

times when we're talking about fitness or nutrition, it feels like a sore subject for her. I don't want her to feel uncomfortable around us because I watch what I eat. Advice? — **WEIGHTY ISSUE IN WASHINGTON**

**DEAR WEIGHTY ISSUE:** Ask your daughter if mentioning these topics makes her girlfriend uncomfortable. Keep in mind that your houseguest will be staying with you only a few more weeks. Until she leaves, refrain from discussing topics that make her uncomfortable in her presence.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 60 and disabled. I desperately would like a dog. I'm not a cat person. I can't get a bird because I have lupus. Working at a shelter isn't an option. I added up all the pluses

and minuses, and the minuses were more plentiful. However, the pluses are so tempting.

Logically, I know it would not be fair to either of us. The wiser part of myself says no, but I want someone who is happy when I come home, kisses me, sits on my lap and shares my bed. And someone to care for. Any advice? — **NURTURER IN NEW YORK**

**DEAR NURTURER:** Rescue a dog who needs nurturing as much as you do. Adopt an older one from an animal rescue, and you may save two lives at once. That said, it's important you discuss those pluses and minuses with a veterinarian and take out pet insurance — just in case the need arises.

## BROWN

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the work we are doing now to figure out how we invest in both the natural and built environment to create a 100-year water plan for Oregon.

**Q: When and why did you become a proponent of prescribed burning?**

I have been all along. One of my most devastating experiences (was) in John Day and specifically the Canyon Creek Fire (in 2015). We lost 50 homes. (I realized) we were going to have to modernize and update our fire-fighting efforts.

But, you know, we've had really challenging fire seasons '17, '18 — I think we got a bye in '19 — '20 and, obviously, '21. After the Substation Fire (in 2018 near The Dalles), it was clear to me that we needed to rethink how we were fighting fires with the strategies, techniques, equipment and systems. So, we created the wildfire council in 2019.

**Q: How would you rate the performance of the Oregon Water Resources Department in managing the state's water, especially during drought? Is there anything you'd change?**

I think this is incredibly challenging when you don't have enough (water). No decision is going to feel right; it's much like during the pandemic, right?

I think my goal for the department and frankly for the entire Western region is, we have to be working more collaboratively, more creatively. We have to be trying new techniques. I think we've got to do better about investing in wetland mitigation. And we're going to need help from our federal partners.

**Q: What's your response to farmers who say they don't feel heard by you? How do you perceive that you've listened to that community?**

I mean, I will just tell you that the criticism I get from the pro-

gressive side is that I spend too much time listening to people. So, you obviously have to find a balance.

In my role as governor, it's harder firsthand, and so we work through organizations, right? Through the (Oregon Association of Nurseries), the Farm Bureau, (and) I work with members of the (State Board of Agriculture).

Could I have done more? Absolutely. There's no question about it. When I was (Oregon) Secretary of State (2009-2015), I had listening sessions with folks like the Iversons (who run Iverson Family Farms and the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm) and others to hear what was happening on the ground. It's honestly more challenging to do as governor — time constraints and, you know, unfortunately, Oregon's been in crisis after crisis.

I think one of the biggest areas of conflict, frankly, is around climate change. I think that's where we most strongly butted heads.

We worked hard after our first version of "cap and invest" to really listen to both rural and agricultural community members, to forestry members, to make changes to the bill that would more closely reflect the need and be more responsive. I think we did that. We obviously ran into other issues — I'll just say politics.

**Q: When cap and trade bills on emissions didn't pass, why did you sidestep the Legislature and direct unelected officials to create the "Climate Protection Program," similar to cap and trade, without consent from legislators or the public?**

Well, I would say conservatives sidestepped the legislative process when they walked out. I was very clear if there continued to be walk-outs and the Legislature refused to tackle this issue, that I would take executive action.

We're obviously still in court battles, but I'm very confident that the courts will support my executive authority. We are in crisis and I have authority over state agencies, and they are taking action

well within the confines of the law. I would have preferred to do it through the legislative process; there's no question about that. That was impossible because people left the building.

**Q: Farmers have a spectrum of opinions about climate change, but even among farmers who agree with you that the agricultural sector should play a role in slowing climate change, many criticize your methods, saying they'd rather see positive incentives for private enterprise rather than more policies that punish businesses. Do you favor the "carrot" or "stick" approach to achieving your climate goals?**

I always prefer carrot approaches. And what we liked about our legislation is that by creating incentives, it would have allowed us to create dollars to put back into our communities that have been underserved.

So, it was obviously a regulatory approach, but the resources would have been targeted into the communities that were on the front lines of climate change.

**Q: Can you describe a time when a farmer changed your mind?**

Changed my mind — two people have been instrumental on multiple issues: Rep. Bobby Levy and her husband, Bob Levy. (The Levys farm in Northeastern Oregon. Bobby Levy has served as a Republican in the Oregon House of Representatives since 2021.) I've worked with Bob on water issues. Bobby has been a source of information for me in terms of wolves, frankly, and in terms of ag and ranching policy.

**Q: And what shift has happened or is happening in your mindset?**

I think it's really important to hear other people's perspectives and be able to listen and look at things from a broader lens. Conversations that I've had over the years with Bobby and others provided a different lens for me.

I will tell you that my votes on cougars in the Legislature are dif-

ferent than probably most of my counterparts in Portland. When Dan and I started dating, he was living in Enterprise, Wallowa County. (Dan Little is Brown's husband.) I had friends living in Wallowa County who were afraid to have their kids walk up Lostine Canyon because of cougars. I don't know that people have changed my mind, but I think folks have definitely broadened my perspective.

**Q: In Oregon's 2022 legislative session, many farmers asked you to veto the farmworker overtime pay rule, saying it could hurt their businesses. Have you decided yet if you'll sign the bill?**

Yes. This was a really difficult issue, but we have two competing values here, right? We have the value that (people) who work hard in difficult and backbreaking conditions should be paid fairly, right? And at the same time, we want to make sure that Oregon's family farms and ranches are able to make ends meet, to be able to put their kids through college and to be able to retire.

And so, I made a decision. I will be signing the bill. (She signed the bill one day after the interview, on Friday, April 15.) But I have to say, I see this as a start. In my conversations with folks in the ag sector, I encourage them to continue these conversations. I do not believe this bill is perfect by any way, shape or form. But I think you have to start somewhere. I think it's important that it start through the legislative process because you can make changes, right? This is a step forward. Changes will need to be made.

But here's the second piece. The alternatives were going to (Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries) and to the courts. I know from talking to the labor commissioner that would have been overtime immediately for 40 hours a week. At least this legislation was a phase-in.

I think the economic benefits are well-intended. I think the question is, do they meet the needs

of our small family farms? And I don't know the answer to that. But I think the time is now.

I would encourage folks to sit down at the table now and if folks want to talk with me about it, I'm more than happy to have that conversation about how we could improve it.

**Q: Was there ever a point during the legislative session when you considered vetoing the overtime bill?**

I try to keep an open mind. I met with the Farm Bureau and folks. I talked to the people that I know. I'll just say that. And my conclusion is this was better than what would have happened if I had vetoed the bill.

**Q: Some longtime Oregon farmers have recently moved their operations to states they view as more "business-friendly," citing the difficulty of running a farm business here under increasing regulations related to climate, COVID, etc. What's your response to those farmers who say that your policies drove them away?**

Well, I think our policies, our goal of our policies is to make sure that we preserve the future of Oregon, that we keep people safe and healthy, and I would hope that for those folks who feel like we aren't doing the right thing or have gone too far to stay engaged with rule-making processes. That's really important to have your voice be heard.

**Q: Anything else you want farmers to know?**

My sister (Molly Brown) was a cattle rancher for 25 years. And she is back cattle ranching (in Montana). It was through her that I also gained a different perspective. People ask if my job is stressful. No question. But I at least have control over a lot of things. These folks, you know, have to hope that it's going to rain when we need it to rain, and not rain and snow when it shouldn't. So, I think (farming) is incredibly stressful. I know folks work incredibly hard. I think it is truly a labor of love.

# weather

<b>TONIGHT</b> Rain and drizzle early	<b>FRI</b> Clouds and sun; warmer	<b>SAT</b> Rain and drizzle	<b>SUN</b> Partly sunny and warmer	<b>MON</b> Showers around; colder
<b>Baker City</b> 32 Comfort Index™ 0	<b>54 33</b> 9	<b>52 37</b> 2	<b>57 38</b> 5	<b>52 34</b> 0
<b>La Grande</b> 37 Comfort Index™ 0	<b>56 38</b> 8	<b>52 40</b> 0	<b>60 40</b> 9	<b>48 38</b> 0
<b>Enterprise</b> 32 Comfort Index™ 0	<b>48 31</b> 2	<b>51 35</b> 0	<b>57 36</b> 10	<b>48 38</b> 0

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**

<b>TEMPERATURES</b>	<b>Baker City</b>	<b>La Grande</b>	<b>Elgin</b>
High Tuesday	50°	50°	52°
Low Tuesday	34°	36°	37°
<b>PRECIPITATION (inches)</b>			
Tuesday	0.17	0.10	0.19
Month to date	0.98	0.85	2.64
Normal month to date	0.70	1.58	2.13
Year to date	1.65	3.23	9.83
Normal year to date	2.76	6.20	9.99

**AGRICULTURAL INFO.**

**HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY**

Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	WSW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	2.3
Evapotranspiration	0.11

**RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)**

Phillips Reservoir	10% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	79% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	46% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	88% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	45% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	100% of capacity

**STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)**

Grande Ronde at Troy	3860 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	27 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	6 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	447 cfs
Minam River at Minam	485 cfs
Powder River near Richland	20 cfs

**TUESDAY EXTREMES**

<b>NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)</b>	
High: 103°	Eloy, Ariz.
Low: 13°	Leadville, Colo.
Wettest: 2.94"	Brownsville, Texas

**OREGON**

High: 67°	Rome
Low: 29°	Odell Lake
Wettest: 0.31"	Lakeview

**WEATHER HISTORY**

State College, Pa., was buried by 20 inches of snow on April 28, 1928. The train from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia was blocked for two days.

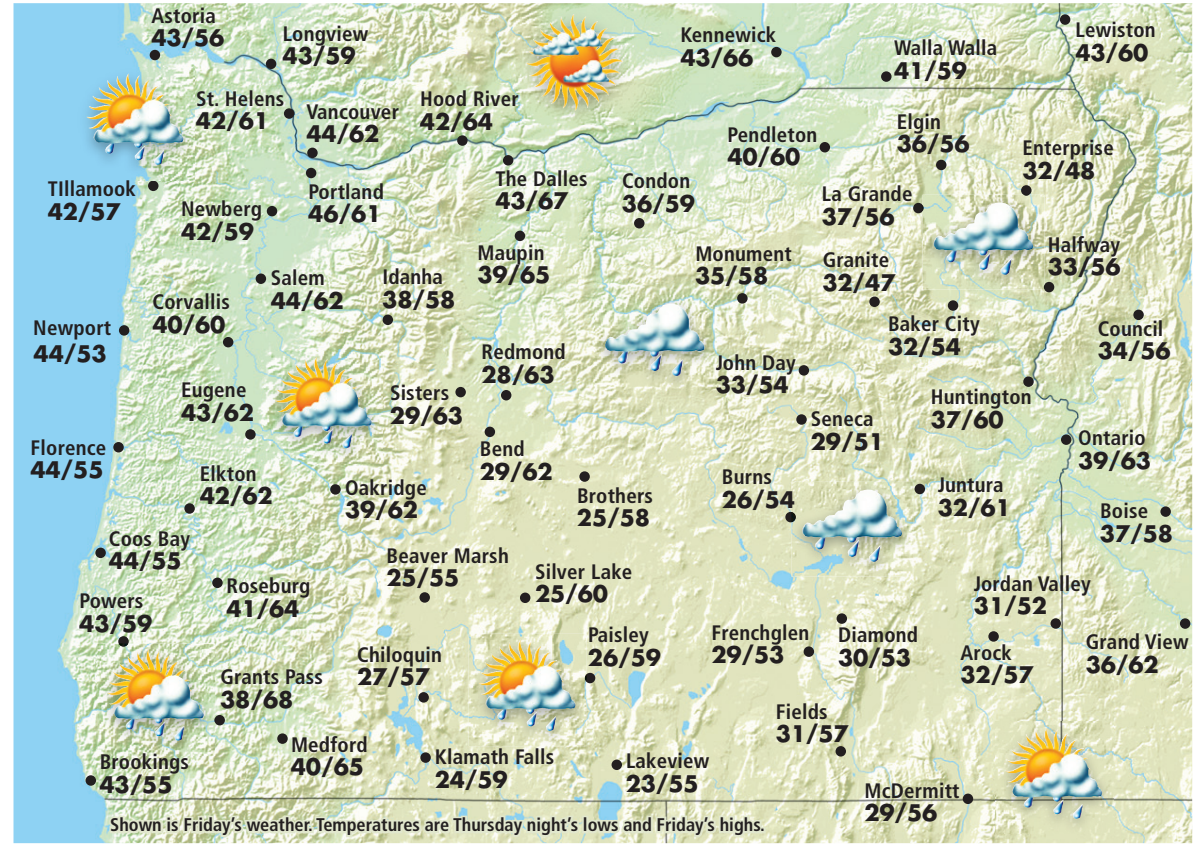
**SUN & MOON**

<b>THU.</b>	<b>FRI.</b>
Sunrise	5:46 a.m.
Sunset	7:55 p.m.
Moonrise	5:08 a.m.
Moonset	5:27 a.m.

**MOON PHASES**

<b>THU. Apr 30</b>	<b>FRI. May 8</b>	<b>SAT. May 15</b>	<b>SUN. May 22</b>
New	First	Full	Last

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



**REGIONAL CITIES**

<b>City</b>	<b>FRI. HI/Lo/W</b>	<b>SAT. HI/Lo/W</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>FRI. HI/Lo/W</b>	<b>SAT. HI/Lo/W</b>
Astoria	56/46/c	55/43/sh	Lewiston	60/40/pc	61/46/r
Bend	62/43/pc	57/37/sh	Longview	59/48/sh	59/42/sh
Boise	58/38/pc	63/42/c	Meacham	54/37/pc	51/40/r
Brookings	55/47/pc	56/44/sh	Medford	65/49/pc	61/41/sh
Burns	54/35/s	56/33/sh	Newport	53/46/c	52/42/sh
Coos Bay	55/49/c	54/41/sh	Olympia	60/46/c	57/39/sh
Corvallis	60/47/c	59/39/c	Ontario	63/37/pc	62/44/c
Council	56/34/pc	55/39/c	Pasco	67/44/pc	61/45/r
Elgin	56/35/pc	55/39/c	Pendleton	60/45/pc	59/42/r
Eugene	62/48/c	60/41/sh	Portland	61/50/c	60/47/sh
Hermiston	64/47/pc	63/46/r	Powers	59/50/c	56/39/sh
Hood River	64/50/c	60/46/sh	Redmond	63/42/pc	57/34/sh
Imnaha	58/35/pc	59/40/c	Roseburg	64/48/c	59/41/sh
John Day	54/41/pc	52/38/r	Salem	62/49/sh	60/44/sh
Joseph	49/34/pc	50/34/r	Spokane	57/38/pc	55/40/r
Kennewick	66/46/pc	61/47/r	The Dalles	67/48/pc	63/46/sh
Klamath Falls	59/39/pc	55/32/sh	Ukiah	53/39/pc	50/33/r
Lakeview	55/33/pc	57/34/t	Walla Walla	59/44/pc	55/43/r

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

**RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY**

<b>ANTHONY LAKES</b> Cold	<b>31 26</b>	<b>PHILLIPS LAKE</b> Some sun; warmer	<b>50 31</b>
<b>MT. EMILY REC.</b> Clouds and sun	<b>41 35</b>	<b>BROWNLEE RES.</b> Partly sunny; cool	<b>58 38</b>
<b>EAGLE CAP WLD.</b> Partly sunny; wild	<b>35 26</b>	<b>EMIGRANT ST. PARK</b> Mostly cloudy	<b>50 34</b>
<b>WALLOWA LAKE</b> Partial sunshine	<b>49 34</b>	<b>MCKAY RESERVOIR</b> Periods of sun	<b>60 45</b>
<b>THIEF VALLEY RES.</b> Partly sunny; cool	<b>54 33</b>	<b>RED BRIDGE ST. PARK</b> Warmer	<b>56 38</b>