

Loyal worker is out of a job following knee replacements

DEAR ABBY: After 16 years of loyal and dedicated service to my employer, I find myself out of work. Months ago, I needed double knee replacements. I gave him three months' notice about my surgery, planning to return on June 1. It was a one-girl office; I was responsible for all the administrative duties.

When I called my employer, he said, "Sorry. No work," and hung up on me! I am 64 years old and jobless. I haven't written a resume in more than 20 years. How do I start rebuilding my life?



DEAR ABBY

Life is not kind when you are over 50, and I never thought this day would come. I had intended to work until I was 70. I can't think straight, and am hurt beyond words that I was tossed to the curb after being a loyal and dedicated employee all these years.

— **DEEPLY HURT**

DEAR DEEPLY HURT: You have my sympathy. For your boss to have kicked you while you were down is disgraceful. Run this scenario by an attorney who specializes in labor issues and ask if you have any recourse. Although you can't think straight right now, I assure you the lawyer will be able to advise you with a dispassionate eye.

And while you are at it, start constructing your resume. Although there may not be a job opening in the field you were working in, surely there is work for someone with a 16-year history of loyal service to one employer and the skills you have acquired and polished along the way.

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Nick" was married for 17 years until he got caught cheating on his wife with her much-younger niece. He's 34; she's 20. They say they are in love.

Nick has come home to be near family because he has been a stay-at-home dad for the last four years and doesn't have the means to start over without help. (They lived 10 hours away.) The problem is, he has asked to stay with me, which would've been fine, but he's bringing along his new love. We all love Nick's wife, and they have three children together. To let his lover stay here with him feels like a betrayal of my sister-in-law.

Out of all the siblings, I have the most room (we are recent empty nesters), and I could swing it financially. I suppose I should just get over it and help because he's family, but I'm afraid my husband won't be so forgiving.

— **CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE**

DEAR CAUGHT: It's difficult, but I'll refrain from commenting on your brother's morals or judgment. Whether you should get into the middle of this mess because Nick is family isn't a question I can answer. And you won't know the answer until after you have discussed it with your husband.

P.S. I'm so mad I changed my mind about not being judgmental. It would be poetic justice if the niece met a handsome hunk her age and dumped your brother.

DEAR ABBY: I am a child care provider working with infants. Two of us work in the nursery and share responsibilities.

One baby has become extremely attached to me, to the point that I can't take a break or go to lunch without him screaming until I return. I feel guilty taking lunch breaks or even a vacation because I know that whoever substitutes for me will have to deal with the crying.

Other teachers have tried to bond with him to make it easier on everyone, but it doesn't work. It has reached the point that I'm exhausted at the end of the day from the stress of having to be near him all day. Any suggestions?

— **MOTHERING IN MISSOURI**

DEAR MOTHERING: Yes. You are a caring person who is doing more than your share of trying to make the baby feel secure, so stop feeling guilty. I consulted Faisal Chawla, M.D., a pediatrician in Los Angeles, who explained that separation anxiety normally occurs at around 6 to 9 months, so age may be a factor. The baby may be experiencing separation anxiety from you as others might get it when a parent drops them off at day care. It should not cause you distress since this is expected behavior.

Leave after you say your goodbye and don't come back repeatedly. Coming back is positive reinforcement for the crying ("If I cry harder, they will come back!").

Deadly California blaze spawned a destructive fire tornado

By Paul Elias
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A deadly Northern California wildfire burned so hot in dry and windy conditions that it birthed a record-breaking tornado of flame, officials said Friday.

They also warned of worsening conditions throughout the region.

Winds in the "fire whirl" created July 26 near Redding reached speeds of 143 mph (230 kph), a speed that rivaled some of the most destructive Midwest tornados, National Weather Service meteorologist Duane Dykema said. The whirl uprooted trees and tore roofs from homes, Dykema said.

The whirl measured a 3 on the five-level Enhanced Fujita scale, which scientists use to classify the strength of tornados, he said. California has not recorded a tornado of that strength since 1978.

That fire continues to burn about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of the Oregon border as firefighters there and throughout Northern California brace for worsening conditions this weekend.

The weather service issued warnings for critical fire weather conditions into Saturday, saying a series of dry low-pressure systems passing through the region would bring afternoon wind gusts.

"This is a particularly dangerous situation with extremely low humidity and high winds. New fires will grow rapidly out of control, in some cases people

may not be able to evacuate safely in time should a fire approach," the weather service said in its bulletin for the Mendocino area north of San Francisco.

Forecasters said areas with the highest threat include the massive blaze near Redding and two fires burning next to each other around Clearlake about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco.

The Redding fire has grown to 206 square miles (533-square-kilometer) and has destroyed 1,060 homes and many other structures.

Two firefighters and four other people have been killed since the blaze, which ignited July 23, raced with extraordinary fury toward the region's largest city. More than 1,300 homes remained threatened.

Wildfires typically create whirls but rarely of the strength of the one recorded July 26, Dykema said.

Whirls are created when hot air rises and twists tightly, he said. The hotter the fire, the faster the air rises and the tighter it twists until it takes off as a tornado.

To the southwest of Redding, new evacuations were ordered late Thursday at the Mendocino Complex, where twin fires have ravaged a combined 240 square miles (621 square kilometers), destroyed 41 residences and threatened 9,200 homes.

One of the fires rapidly expanded overnight.

In Sierra Nevada, firefighters achieved 41 percent containment of a 115-square-mile

(298-square-kilometer) forest fire that has shut down Yosemite Valley and other adjacent portions of Yosemite National Park at what is normally the height of summer tourism.

The fire has reached into remote areas of the country's third-oldest national park. Workers who live in Yosemite's popular Valley region were ordered to leave Friday because of inaccessible roads.

The fire also killed two firefighters.

A new report says the first firefighter, a California bulldozer operator, nearly slipped off a steep mountain trail three times before his vehicle finally rolled into a ravine and fatally crushed him.

Each earlier slip alone qualified as a "near miss" warning that the century-old mining trail could collapse, according to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's preliminary report.

Braden Varney, 36, was working alone overnight July 14 fighting the wildfire while his assistant went to get a new hydraulic hose. Varney's radio wasn't communicating with headquarters, so his assistant relayed messages — until they lost contact.

The report says the death of the 10-year veteran highlights the need for better risk assessment, communication and supervision.

Officials have not said how the other three firefighters died fighting blazes near Yosemite and Redding.

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weather

	HOT HOT HOT HOT			
TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Mainly clear	Sunshine and very hot	Mostly sunny and very hot	Very hot with sunshine	Mostly sunny and very hot
Baker City 48 Comfort Index™ 5	96 50 2	102 55 1	105 57 1	103 54 2
La Grande 53 Comfort Index™ 6	96 57 4	102 58 2	106 60 1	100 56 2
Enterprise 53 Comfort Index™ 5	93 57 3	99 59 2	103 61 1	99 54 2

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	88°	88°	85°
Low Sunday	48°	50°	47°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.10	0.11	0.10
Year to date	4.75	10.30	20.78
Normal year to date	6.46	10.13	14.47

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 117° Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 25° Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 4.88" Fort Dodge, Iowa

OREGON

High: 97° The Dalles
Low: 38° Meacham
Wettest: none

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY

Lowest relative humidity: 15%
Afternoon wind: NE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine: 13.1
Evapotranspiration: 0.26

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)

Phillips Reservoir	31% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	43% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	49% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	52% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	21% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	36% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	514 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	117 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	121 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	37 cfs
Minam River at Minam	91 cfs
Powder River near Richland	44 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

Philadelphia, Pa., had a high temperature of 106 degrees on Aug. 7, 1918. This mark was not matched until 1936 and has yet to reach that high again.

SUN & MOON

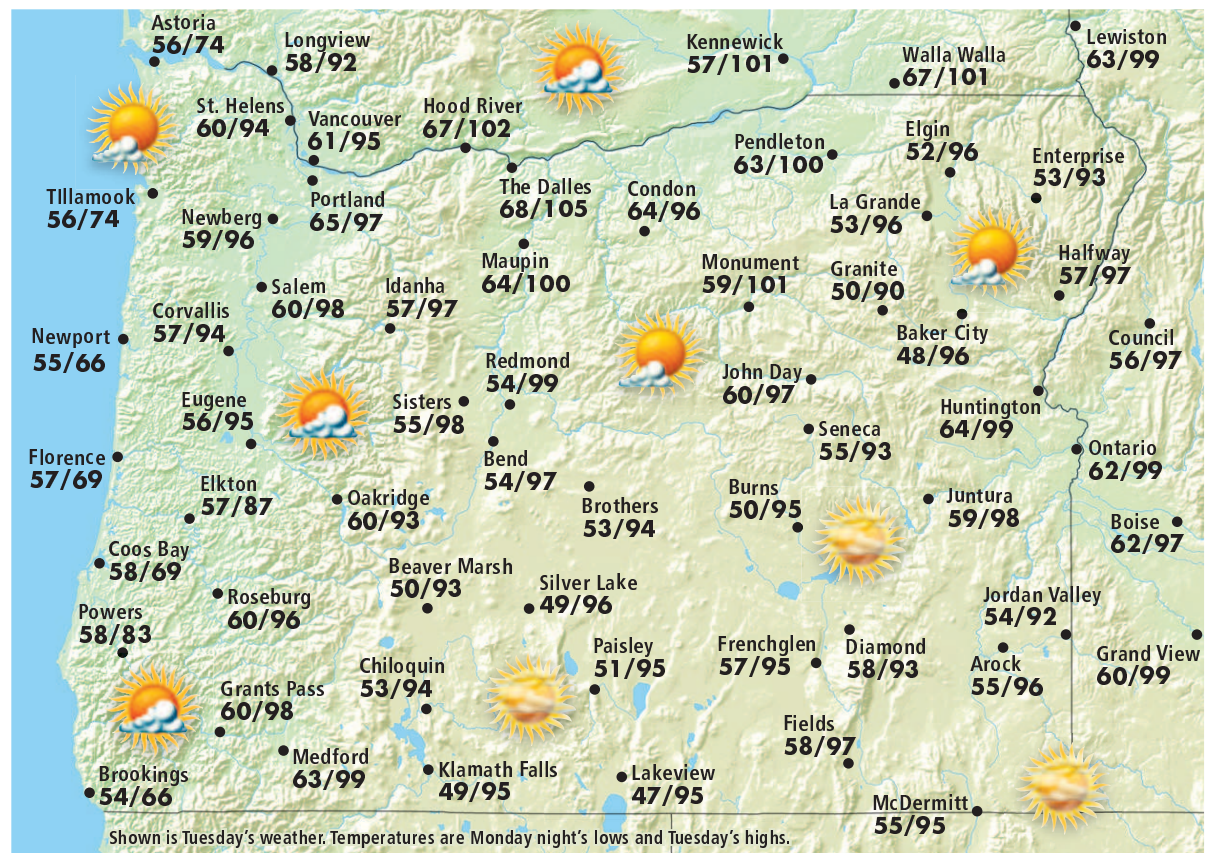
	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	5:42 a.m.	5:44 a.m.
Sunset	8:13 p.m.	8:12 p.m.
Moonrise	12:55 a.m.	1:38 a.m.
Moonset	3:52 p.m.	5:01 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 11	Aug 18	Aug 26	Sep 2

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/LO/W	WED. HI/LO/W	City	TUE. HI/LO/W	WED. HI/LO/W
Astoria	74/56/pc	73/57/s	Lewiston	99/65/s	105/69/s
Bend	97/57/pc	103/61/pc	Longview	92/60/s	91/60/pc
Boise	97/63/s	102/69/s	Meacham	94/54/s	101/56/s
Brookings	66/54/pc	66/54/pc	Medford	99/67/pc	103/67/pc
Burns	95/54/s	100/52/pc	Newport	66/54/pc	66/54/s
Coos Bay	69/58/pc	70/57/pc	Olympia	93/55/s	95/56/s
Corvallis	94/58/s	94/58/pc	Ontario	99/64/s	103/66/s
Council	97/57/s	100/61/s	Pasco	101/58/s	107/62/s
Elgin	96/57/s	102/60/s	Pendleton	100/66/s	107/68/s
Eugene	95/57/s	96/56/pc	Portland	97/76/s	98/66/pc
Hermiston	103/63/s	109/67/s	Powers	83/58/pc	85/59/pc
Hood River	102/69/s	104/71/pc	Redmond	99/57/s	106/57/pc
Imnaha	97/64/s	103/68/s	Roseburg	96/63/pc	99/64/pc
John Day	97/62/s	103/65/s	Salem	98/63/s	99/62/pc
Joseph	93/56/s	98/58/s	Spokane	94/63/pc	99/67/pc
Kennewick	101/59/s	108/63/s	The Dalles	105/69/s	108/73/pc
Klamath Falls	95/52/pc	98/53/pc	Ukiah	95/55/s	101/53/s
Lakeview	95/49/pc	97/47/pc	Walla Walla	101/69/s	108/75/s

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

RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Hazy sunshine	64	43
PHILLIPS LAKE	Hazy sun	87	50
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly sunny; nice	78	52
BROWNLEE RES.	Hazy sun	94	59
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Hazy sun; warmer	74	43
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Mostly sunny	85	46
WALLOWA LAKE	Hazy sunshine	88	53
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Mostly sunny	95	63
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Hazy and very warm	92	48
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Mostly sunny; warm	91	53

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