

# Bride-to-be attempts to keep costs, hurt feelings down

DEAR ABBY: I have an awkward wedding conundrum I hope you can help me with. I am getting married in April and want to invite two co-workers with whom I am very close. One of them is married; the other, "Sara," is in the process of divorcing her husband. Sara was unhappy for years with her almost ex-husband, and we witnessed the deterioration of their marriage over several years.

About a year ago, while still married, Sara began an affair. She's still "seeing" this man — sneaking out, meeting him on his lunch break, going to motels — while she goes through the divorce process. She considers them to have been a couple for the past year.

I know she will feel slighted because in her mind he's her boyfriend, and they are a couple. I have met him only once, but because they have been so secretive, he's a complete stranger to me. Sara may resent that I invited our other co-worker's husband and not her "boyfriend." Is there a way I can handle this tactfully?

— BEWILDERED BRIDE

DEAR BEWILDERED: If you invite one close co-worker's significant other and exclude the other, there are guaranteed to be hurt feelings. If you explain that you don't feel she is in a committed relationship (after a year!), you will get yourself deeper into hot water because she will be insulted. Believe me, if you do what you are considering, it's going to cost you far more than the price of two dinners.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 67-year-old woman. I've been single all my life but now wish I could find a companion to share my later years with. My problem is, I'm not interested in a sexual relationship. I have never been good at the physical part of intimacy. As a result, I've had limited experience and not much luck with men. When I was younger, I had a reasonably healthy sexual appetite, but couldn't seem to do "the act" right, although I enjoyed the prelude.

My idea of a relationship now would be with a kind, supportive man who likes to dance and enjoy life, but who's OK with no sex. Is this a reasonable expectation at my

age, or should I just give it all up? I don't even know how I'd go about finding such a partner without fearing I'd have to prove myself and experience more loss.

— WANTING THIS BUT NOT THAT

DEAR WANTING: I can't guarantee that you will find a partner, but there is a website for asexual people that offers a lot of information as well as a way to connect with the rest of the "ace" (short for "asexual") community. Its members call it AVEN, which stands for Asexual Visibility and Education Network. It can be found at asexuality.org.

You and many others may find it helpful, and I wish you luck in your quest to find a loving relationship.

DEAR READERS: Welcome to 2020. I would like to share an item that was sent to me by L.J. Bhatia, a reader from New Delhi, India:

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say: "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bondages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The prayer of St. Francis (of which there are several versions) contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

And so, Dear Readers, may 2020 bring with it good health, peace and joy to all of you.

— LOVE, ABBY



DEAR ABBY

# Snowpack well below normal heading into 2020

By George Plaven  
Capital Press

SALEM — Early season snowfall is lagging again across Oregon, potentially foreshadowing another dry and difficult summer ahead for farmers and ranchers.

But as 2019 proved, things can turn around quickly, giving plenty of reason for hope.

According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon's snow-water equivalent — the amount of water contained within snow — is just 45% of normal statewide. Every water basin is measuring below average for snow, with the exception of the Owyhee Basin in southeast Oregon, which is holding up at 117% of normal.

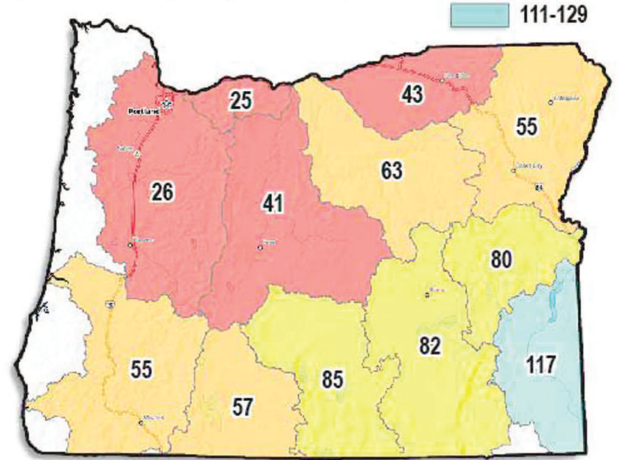
The lowest totals are in the Hood, Sandy and Lower Deschutes basins at 25% of normal, and the Willamette Basin at 26%.

Mountain snowpack is crucial for replenishing streams and reservoirs for farms and fish, especially in Eastern Oregon. As snow melts, it trickles down into creeks and rivers, sustaining healthy stream flows while providing irrigation water for crops and livestock.

Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisor for NRCS Oregon, said the agency will release its first water supply outlook report by Jan. 10. Based on the current lack of snow, Oviatt said he anticipates lower water availability earlier in the spring, though there is still time to

## Oregon snow water equivalent

(As of Dec. 30) \*Average annual SWE, 1981-2010



Source: USDA NRCS

Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

rebound. "We're not in panic mode yet," Oviatt said. "It is early in the (water) year ... We can see some improvement, depending on conditions."

The water year, as defined by hydrologists, begins on Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30 of the following calendar year. November and December are typically much cooler and wetter months for Oregon, Oviatt said, however most of the state's 90 snow monitoring sites are measuring less than 8 inches of snow-water equivalent.

Perhaps more concerning, overall precipitation including rain is averaging just 50% of normal statewide. The Oregon Water Resources Department reports that November in particular was one of the top five driest months on record for north-west Oregon.

Racquel Rancier, spokes-

woman for OWRD, said that average stream flows were just 40% of normal statewide as of Dec. 30.

"We certainly would like to see better and more consistent stream flows and a greater snowpack at this point," Rancier said. "Conditions need to greatly improve in the coming months in order to have a more normal water year."

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly 98% of Oregon listed in some stage of drought, ranging from "abnormally dry" to "moderate."

Conditions were much the same at this time last year, too, when snowpack was just 42% of normal levels in early January. Then came February, which brought drought-busting winter storms that dumped several feet of snow at higher elevations and boosted snow-water equivalent by 20-30%.

# weather

TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
A shower in the evening	Cloudy with a snow shower	Still cloudy	A morning shower	Snow showers possible
<b>Baker City</b> 32 Comfort Index™ 3	<b>40 27</b> 3	<b>40 31</b> 2	<b>41 22</b> 1	<b>37 24</b> 4
<b>La Grande</b> 29 Comfort Index™ 1	<b>38 32</b> 3	<b>41 35</b> 2	<b>41 25</b> 1	<b>38 26</b> 3
<b>Enterprise</b> 28 Comfort Index™ 0	<b>35 28</b> 1	<b>43 34</b> 5	<b>39 20</b> 1	<b>36 25</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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Monday	38°	39°	43°
Low Monday	32°	29°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	Trace	0.01	Trace
Month to date	0.08	0.53	2.20
Normal month to date	0.95	1.61	2.97
Year to date	7.43	14.25	28.63
Normal year to date	10.10	16.47	23.64

### MONDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 86° Immokalee, Fla.
Low: -31° Daniel, Wyo.
Wettest: 4.01" Madison, S.D.
OREGON
High: 60° Brookings
Low: 19° Keno
Wettest: 0.02" Astoria

### WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 1, 1864, an arctic blast caused poorly clothed Civil War soldiers and their prisoners much suffering in Louisville, Ky. The temperature dropped from 47 to 19 below zero in just 21 hours.

### SUN & MOON

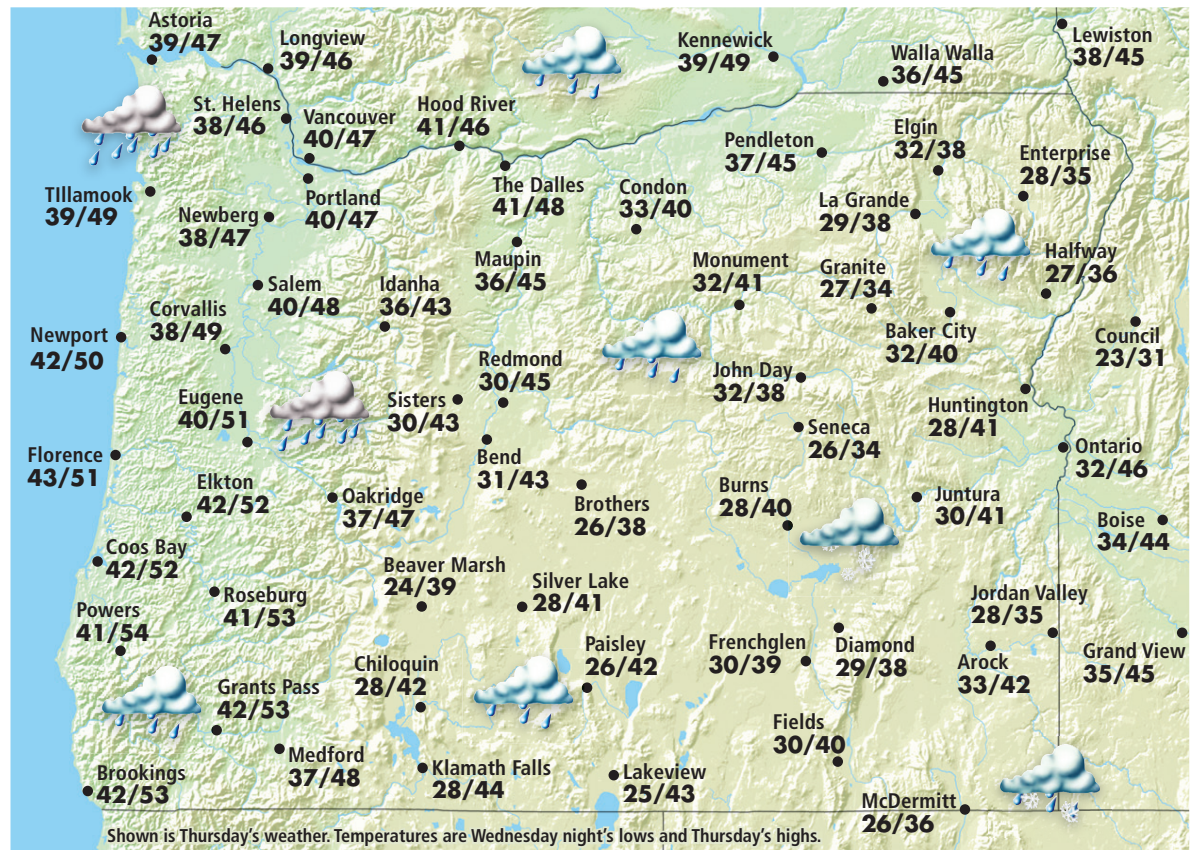
	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	7:32 a.m.	7:32 a.m.
Sunset	4:20 p.m.	4:21 p.m.
Moonrise	11:28 a.m.	11:49 a.m.
Moonsset	11:03 p.m.	none

MOON PHASES	First	Full	Last	New
	Jan 2	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



### REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	47/45/r	53/40/r	Lewiston	45/37/sf	50/41/sh
Bend	43/35/c	53/32/pc	Longview	46/44/r	53/41/r
Boise	44/31/c	45/37/pc	Meacham	36/31/sf	40/34/c
Brookings	53/44/c	54/41/r	Medford	48/34/c	52/39/r
Burns	40/25/c	45/29/pc	Newport	50/47/r	53/42/r
Coos Bay	52/43/c	57/43/r	Olympia	45/43/r	53/39/r
Corvallis	49/42/c	54/40/r	Ontario	46/30/c	44/33/pc
Council	31/22/sf	36/25/sh	Pasco	50/40/c	54/41/pc
Elgin	38/32/sf	41/36/c	Pendleton	45/39/c	54/41/c
Eugene	51/42/c	58/41/r	Portland	47/44/r	55/42/r
Hermiston	48/34/c	50/42/pc	Powers	54/43/c	60/39/r
Hood River	46/38/r	51/38/r	Redmond	45/31/c	56/32/pc
Imnaha	37/32/sf	44/36/c	Roseburg	53/39/c	59/42/r
John Day	38/32/c	48/35/c	Salem	48/44/c	56/41/r
Joseph	33/27/sf	43/32/c	Spokane	38/32/c	45/35/c
Kennewick	49/37/c	52/41/pc	The Dalles	48/37/c	50/39/pc
Klamath Falls	44/24/c	49/31/pc	Ukiah	36/30/c	45/32/c
Lakeview	43/23/c	50/31/pc	Walla Walla	45/39/c	52/40/c

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

### RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

Location	Forecast	Temp
ANTHONY LAKES	Winds subsiding	25 18
MT. EMILY REC.	A snow shower	32 28
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A snow shower	26 18
WALLOWA LAKE	A snow shower	33 27
THIEF VALLEY RES.	A snow shower	40 27
PHILLIPS LAKE	Cloudy	35 24
BROWNLEE RES.	A snow shower	39 25
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A snow shower	33 27
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Cloudy	44 38
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	A snow shower	38 32

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# EVERY FRIDAY

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