

# Introvert experiences slow start fitting in with new coworkers

**DEAR ABBY:** I started a new job a month ago. It's a well-paying job at a great company. My problem is I'm an insecure introvert. Making friends has always been hard for me. At this new job, my desk is away from everyone else, and no one has ever asked me to lunch.

I'm sure if I reached out proactively and asked to tag along, I wouldn't be rejected. But the thought of having to ask semi-strangers to include me and having to make small talk during lunch makes me anxious. I'm also afraid people will label me as part of certain subgroups within the department. I don't want to be in any clique. What should I do?



**DEAR ABBY**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a relative who has, over the years, gotten many colorful tattoos on his arms, back and chest. I make no value judgments about this, but I am curious about what in today's culture motivates people to get tattoos, and why many people can't seem to get enough of them.

— **CURIOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**DEAR CURIOUS:** People get inked for a variety of reasons. Among them: because they are currently in fashion, they think they are pretty, to mark milestones in their life, someone they admire has one or more, or because their friends are doing it. And I suspect that some individuals turn their bodies into canvasses because the practice is somehow addictive.

**DEAR ABBY:** My siblings and I never hear from my grandmother unless she's in town, and then it's usually for one day out of the two weeks she's here. She never calls on holidays, birthdays or just to say hello. Yes, we call her on these special days.

We have other grandparents who wouldn't let a week go by without calling to ask how we are, how we are doing in school or just to talk.

My mom is a grandma to my oldest sister's children and when she doesn't see or hear from them within a week, she'll call or visit them. (By the way, my grandmother is retired, very healthy and travels. When she does, we don't even get a postcard!) What's wrong with her?

— **HURT FEELINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**DEAR HURT FEELINGS:** I agree that you didn't get the standard-issue dotting, cookie-baking grandmother. Not knowing her, I can't explain the reason for her distant behavior, but I'm positive it has nothing to do with you personally. She may be preoccupied with her own life, or it may have something to do with the relationship she has with your parents. If you really want the answer to your question, the person you should ask is your grandmother the next time she comes to town.

# Three dead after commercial crabbing vessel capsizes off Oregon Coast

**By Gillian Flaccus**

The Associated Press

**PORTLAND** — A commercial crabbing boat capsized in rough waters off the Oregon coast, killing the three men aboard and sending a shock wave through a seafaring community already struggling from a monthlong delay to the annual crabbing season.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the vessel, the Mary B. II, overturned about 10 p.m. Tuesday as it crossed Yaquina Bay bar in Newport, Oregon. The bar is one of the most notorious off the Oregon coast, and authorities said crews faced 12- to 14-foot (3.6- to 4.2-meter) waves as they tried to rescue the fishermen.

James Lacey, 48, of South Toms River, New Jersey, was pulled from the ocean by helicopter and flown to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The body of Joshua Porter, 50, of Toledo, Oregon, washed up on a beach early Wednesday.

The body of the boat's skipper, Stephen Biernacki, 50, of Barnegat Township, New Jersey, was found on the hull of the boat after it, too, washed up on a jetty.

The tragedy was nothing new for Newport, a working fishing port about 130 miles (210 kilometers) southwest of Portland on Oregon's central coast. The small town hosts a granite memorial at Yaquina Bay etched with more than 100 names of local fishermen lost at sea over the past century and shared tragedies are woven into the fabric of the community.

"It happens frequently enough that we actually have

funds that help families during this time. We fundraise all year long, and we try to help them as much as we can," said Taunette Dixon, president of the nonprofit Newport Fishermen's Wives, which supports families who have lost a breadwinner to the waves.

But those in the industry said the loss hit particularly hard this year, when crabbers were rushing to sea to try to catch up after the annual Oregon Dungeness crab season was delayed more than a month. The season usually begins Dec. 1, but this year it only began last week because the crabs were too small and didn't have enough meat to harvest.

Then, a series of bad storms in the first week of the season prevented many crabbers from recovering their pots on Jan. 4, the first day they could do so, said Tim Novotny, spokesman for Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission.

"When they did get out, some of them had to stay out a little longer because of the weather. The difficulty is once you're out at sea, they can handle a lot of conditions. But the trouble is trying to get back across those bars," Novotny said.

A bar is an area near the coast where a river — in this case the Yaquina River — meets the sea. The force of the river water colliding with the ocean can create hazardous currents and swells, particularly during a storm. The Yaquina Bay bar is considered one of the more dangerous ones along the Oregon coast. On Wednesday

reports showed waves 16 feet (nearly 5 meters) tall there.

It's so treacherous that the dangers of crossing it with a fully loaded crab boat were the premise of a spin-off of the "The Deadliest Catch," a reality TV show about commercial fishermen that aired on the Discovery channel.

"The fishermen and their families know all too well, unfortunately, that that danger is real. They accept the challenge because they love what they do," Novotny said. "It's part of who they are and what they do."

The appeal also lies in the money that the succulent Dungeness crabs can bring.

Live Oregon Dungeness crabs are currently selling for anywhere between \$5.99 a pound and \$11.99 a pound, depending on location, and they are a staple of the holidays for many on the West Coast. The crabs are also fished in California and Washington.

Crabbing permits are capped at 424 vessels spread over six major ports running the length of the Oregon coast, from Astoria in the north to Brookings near the California border. Three-quarters of the harvest is brought in in the first eight weeks of the season, which usually runs from December to August.

The 10-year average haul for Dungeness crab in Oregon is 16 million pounds, but last year crabbers brought in 23 million pounds. That haul was worth more than \$74 million at the docks and pumped \$150 million into the state and local economy, Novotny said.

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# weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Considerable cloudiness
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>39 18</b>	<b>36 17</b>	<b>36 21</b>	<b>37 25</b>
Comfort Index™	3	3	2	1	1
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42 22</b>	<b>41 22</b>	<b>40 25</b>	<b>41 32</b>
Comfort Index™	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40 21</b>	<b>40 19</b>	<b>40 22</b>	<b>39 27</b>
Comfort Index™	5	5	5	4	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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	49°	49°	50°
Low Thursday	28°	27°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	Trace	0.03
Month to date	0.02	0.03	0.33
Normal month to date	0.29	0.58	1.08
Year to date	0.02	0.03	0.33
Normal year to date	0.29	0.58	1.08

## THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION	(for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 79°	Thermal, Calif.
Low: -14°	Cotton, Minn.
Wettest: 0.70"	Seaside, Ore.
OREGON	
High: 60°	Medford
Low: 22°	Burns
Wettest: 0.70"	Seaside

## WEATHER HISTORY

A cold snap in the Pacific Northwest spread eastward on Jan. 12, 1888, spawning the "Blizzard of '88." The storm affected an area from northern Texas to the Dakotas and killed 200 people.

## SUN & MOON

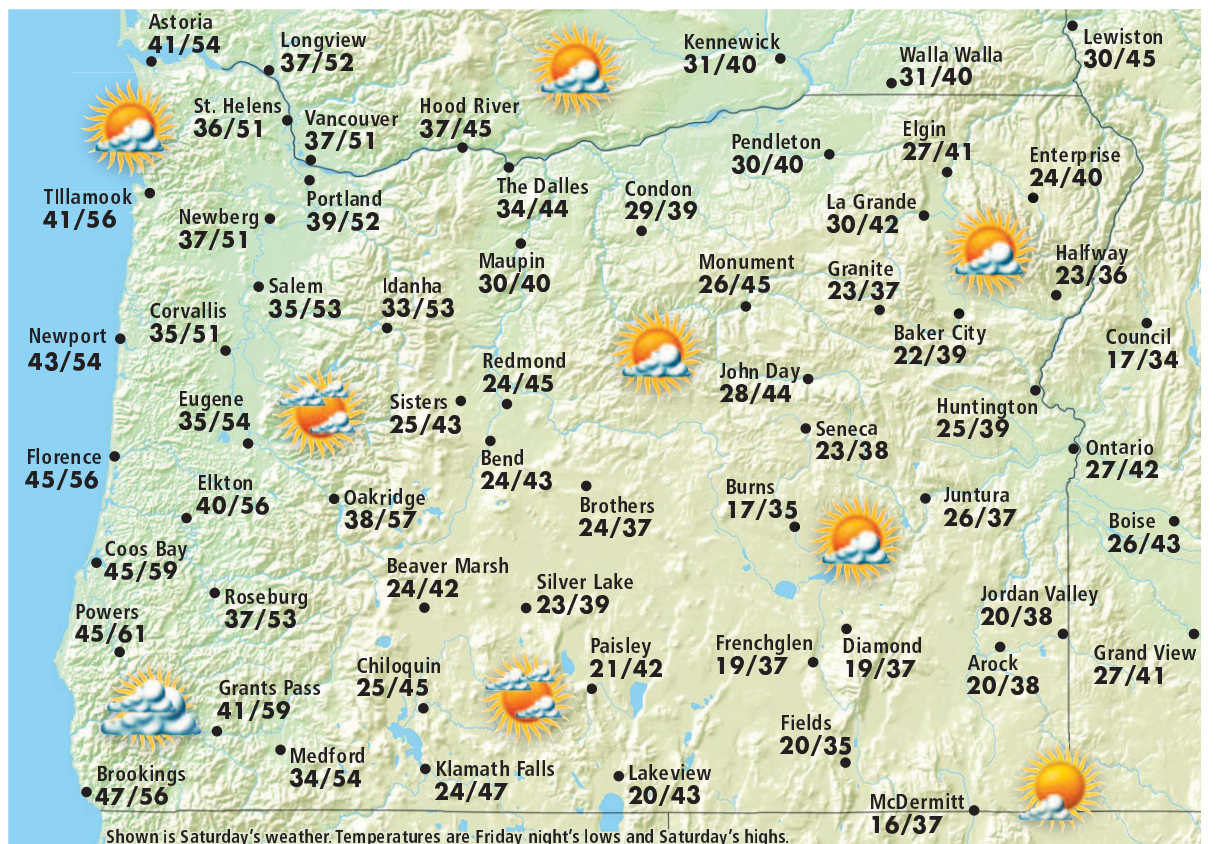
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	7:30 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Sunset	4:31 p.m.	4:32 p.m.
Moonrise	10:38 a.m.	11:02 a.m.
Moonset	10:11 p.m.	11:12 p.m.

## MOON PHASES

	First	Full	Last	New
	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 4

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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## REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	54/37/pc	52/37/pc	Lewiston	45/28/s	42/27/pc
Bend	43/20/s	41/19/pc	Longview	52/31/pc	50/29/pc
Boise	43/23/s	41/22/s	Meacham	41/21/s	40/22/pc
Brookings	56/41/pc	58/42/c	Medford	54/31/pc	53/32/pc
Burns	35/13/s	35/10/pc	Newport	54/40/pc	51/39/pc
Coos Bay	59/39/pc	58/38/pc	Olympia	48/29/pc	47/28/pc
Corvallis	51/30/pc	47/28/pc	Ontario	42/23/s	40/22/s
Council	34/15/s	34/14/s	Pasco	40/27/pc	39/26/pc
Elgin	41/22/s	41/23/pc	Pendleton	40/27/s	37/25/pc
Eugene	54/31/pc	49/29/pc	Portland	52/36/pc	51/35/pc
Hermiston	41/30/s	39/27/pc	Powers	61/38/pc	60/36/c
Hood River	45/34/s	44/30/pc	Redmond	45/22/s	43/19/pc
Imnaha	47/23/s	47/23/s	Roseburg	53/35/pc	52/32/pc
John Day	44/24/s	43/22/pc	Salem	53/31/pc	50/29/pc
Joseph	40/21/s	40/18/s	Spokane	37/24/pc	34/22/pc
Kennewick	40/29/pc	38/27/pc	The Dalles	44/32/s	43/28/pc
Klamath Falls	47/19/s	44/23/pc	Ukiah	43/19/s	41/19/pc
Lakeview	43/14/s	41/16/pc	Walla Walla	40/28/pc	37/27/pc

## RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Some sun	34	22
PHILLIPS LAKE	Partly sunny	38	21
MT. EMILY REC.	Partly sunny	39	31
BROWNLEE RES.	Clouds and sun	44	24
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Partly sunny	32	15
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Partly sunny	40	25
WALLOWA LAKE	Partial sunshine	42	24
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Partly sunny	45	29
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Partly sunny	41	22
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Partly sunny	44	30



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