

Wife resents being benched in favor of her brother-in-law

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. Things are generally good, but we keep having the same old argument related to his little brother.

They have a close relationship, which is great, but I often end up feeling like I'm playing second fiddle to my brother-in-law. If I ask my husband to go out and do something on the weekend, he'll say he doesn't feel like it. Minutes later, if his brother makes the same suggestion, he's up and getting ready to go! Sometimes I end up along for the ride, which lessens the sting a little, but usually I'm left alone.

It wouldn't be so bad if not for the fact that I don't have family close by, and I'm the agency lead where I work, so having "work friends" isn't an option. This leaves my husband the only person I have to spend time with.

I have tried explaining this to him, but when I try, he overreacts and claims I don't want him to spend any time with his brother, which is not what I'm saying. I have begun to feel that he's honest with me when he says no to something, but just can't bring himself to say no to his brother. Either way, it's exhausting and ridiculous. Is there any way to address this, or do I just deal with the sting when it happens and let it go?

— COMPETING FOR ATTENTION

DEAR COMPETING: If you and your husband haven't blocked out some time each week to spend together — a date night — you should. While I don't think it's healthy for you to be entirely dependent upon him for social contact, I do think you should be higher on his list of priorities than his brother.

Because you have already discussed this and seem to have gotten nowhere, please consider finding some other social outlets so you aren't so isolated. Special interest groups or hobbies come to mind.

DEAR ABBY: I was waiting in line to get a cup of coffee and the customer behind me was so close she was almost touching me. Then she coughed without covering her mouth. I stepped away, but she closed in on me and coughed again without covering.

I turned and politely asked her to step

back and cover her mouth the next time she coughed. She said she had an allergy and not a cold. I suggested that because we are in the midst of cold and flu season, there's no way that I — or anyone else — could know the difference between a cough from allergy or illness. Was it rude on my part? Or should we all practice some courtesy by covering our mouths when we cough or sneeze?

— RUDE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR RUDE: What you said was not rude; it was common sense. The notion that if you don't think you're sick ("only allergic"), you have the right to cough on others is misguided. When you asked the woman not to hover near you, she should have respected your request, stepped back and not closed in again whether or not she continued to cough. Flu season is in full swing. That's why it's important for everyone who is out in public — and exposed — to practice good hygiene.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and a ballet dancer, although I just started dancing seriously at 12. I have been in some shows and my teacher has started me on pointe work. It has become my dream to dance professionally.

When I confided it to my mother, she told me it would be impossible. I take two classes a week, but I will be taking more — possibly five — this year. Should I continue with my dream or pursue something else? I know it's a tough profession to work in, but it is what I love.

— DANCING FOR JOY IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR DANCING FOR JOY: A career in dance requires strength, determination, discipline and sacrifice. These are all traits that will serve you well regardless of what profession you decide to pursue when you're older. The person you should ask this question of is your ballet teacher, who is better able to evaluate your talent than I can at a distance.

But I urge you to stick with dance as long as it interests you. Even if you don't eventually become a performer, you could become a choreographer, a teacher or find a rewarding career in some other capacity with a dance company.

Now is not the time to give up on this dream.

Dramatic temperature swings heading to Midwest

By Michael Tarm and David Williams

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The painfully cold weather holding much of the Midwest in a historic deep freeze sent temperatures plunging to record lows Thursday in several cities as the system marched east. But a dramatic swing of as much as 80 degrees was expected within days.

The frigid conditions canceled more flights, and the number of deaths blamed on the cold climbed to 13. Yet there were signs that life was getting back to normal as some students returned to school, train travel resumed and businesses reopened.

A rapid thaw seemed imminent. For instance, Moline, Illinois, saw a temperature of minus 33 degrees Thursday and was forecast to hit 49 degrees by Monday.

Meanwhile, the extreme cold was settling in over the Northeast. In western New York, a storm that dumped up to 20 inches of snow gave way to subzero temperatures and dangerous wind chills. The arctic conditions caused problems from Buffalo to Brooklyn, where about 200 firefighters battling an early morning blaze in a commercial building took turns getting warm on buses.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said state police would crack down on truckers who violated a travel ban on Interstate 90 between Rochester and the Pennsylvania border, after a tractor-trailer crash was blamed for a major pileup.

Schools in parts of Wisconsin,

Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa remained closed Thursday. But students headed back to school in eastern North Dakota, where subzero temperatures were forecast to crawl upward.

The blast of polar air also strained infrastructure with some of the lowest temperatures in a generation, snapping rail lines and knocking out utilities. In Detroit, more than two dozen water mains froze. About 1,700 flights in and out of Chicago airports were canceled.

Chicago's temperature dropped to a low of around minus 21 degrees (minus 30 Celsius) on Thursday, slightly above the city's lowest-ever reading of minus 27 degrees (minus 32 Celsius) in January 1985. Milwaukee's low was minus 25 degrees. Minneapolis recorded minus 24 degrees, and wind chills were as low as minus 38, an improvement from a day earlier.

Rockford, Illinois, saw a record low temperature of minus 31, on Thursday. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, set a daily record low of minus 30 degrees.

Towing companies saw a huge demand for service after hundreds of vehicles got stranded. Trains and buses in Chicago operated with few passengers.

The hardest commuters ventured out only after covering nearly every square inch of flesh against the extreme chill, which froze ice crystals on eyelashes and eyebrows in minutes. The Postal Service even took the rare step of suspending mail delivery

in many places, and United Parcel Service also halted deliveries in several areas.

The bitter cold was the result of a split in the polar vortex, a mass of cold air that normally stays bottled up in the Arctic. The split allowed the air to spill much farther south than usual.

The weather-related deaths included an elderly Illinois man who was found several hours after he fell trying to get into his home, an Ohio woman found in a vacant home, and a University of Iowa student found dead behind an academic hall.

In Michigan, state and utility officials warned residents that they risked brief interruptions of natural gas service if they did not help reduce energy. The warning followed a fire at a utility's suburban Detroit facility that affected natural gas supplies. By Thursday, Consumers Energy said it was "cautiously optimistic" that its requests to curb natural gas use were "having a positive effect."

Amtrak began to restore service out of Chicago, one of the nation's busiest rail hubs, after canceling dozens of trains.

In Saco, Maine, firefighters had to worry about frostbite, slippery conditions and frozen gear as they chipped away at ice and snow to move hoses. A siren got stuck, contributing to the bedlam. Firefighters took breaks to warm up, but the conditions wore them down.

"You could see the look on their faces. They were cold," Deputy Fire Chief David Pendleton said.

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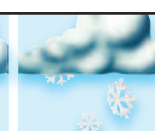
weather

**TONIGHT**
Mostly cloudy

**FRI**
A bit of afternoon rain

**SAT**
A little rain

**SUN**
A little rain

**MON**
Snow, 1-2"

Baker City **27** **43 34**
Comfort Index™ **6** **2**

La Grande **34** **45 37**
Comfort Index™ **3** **1**

Enterprise **30** **45 34**
Comfort Index™ **3** **2**

45 31
1

45 35
0

44 34
2

44 26
1

41 28
1

41 28
1

37 13
0

34 19
0

34 17
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 Wednesday	39°	39°	41°
Low Wednesday	18°	29°	25°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

	24 hours through 4 p.m. yest.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.54	1.61	3.40	
Normal month to date	0.80	1.63	3.17	
Year to date	0.54	1.61	3.40	
Normal year to date	0.80	1.63	3.17	

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 79°	Tamiami, Fla.
Low: -53°	Cotton, Minn.
Wettest: 1.35"	Santa Barbara, Calif.

OREGON

High: 52°	Newport
Low: 17°	Rome
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY

Brownsville, Texas, and Juneau, Alaska, both had temperatures of 32 degrees on Feb. 1, 1985. On that same day, 2 inches of snow accumulated in Dallas, Texas.

SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:15 a.m.	7:13 a.m.
Sunset	4:57 p.m.	4:59 p.m.
Moonrise	4:13 a.m.	5:07 a.m.
Moonset	1:31 p.m.	2:17 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New	First	Full	Last
			
Feb 4	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26

RESERVOIR STORAGE

(through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	31% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	38% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	40% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	24% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	79% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1560 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	10 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	244 cfs
Minam River at Minam	128 cfs
Powder River near Richland	67 cfs

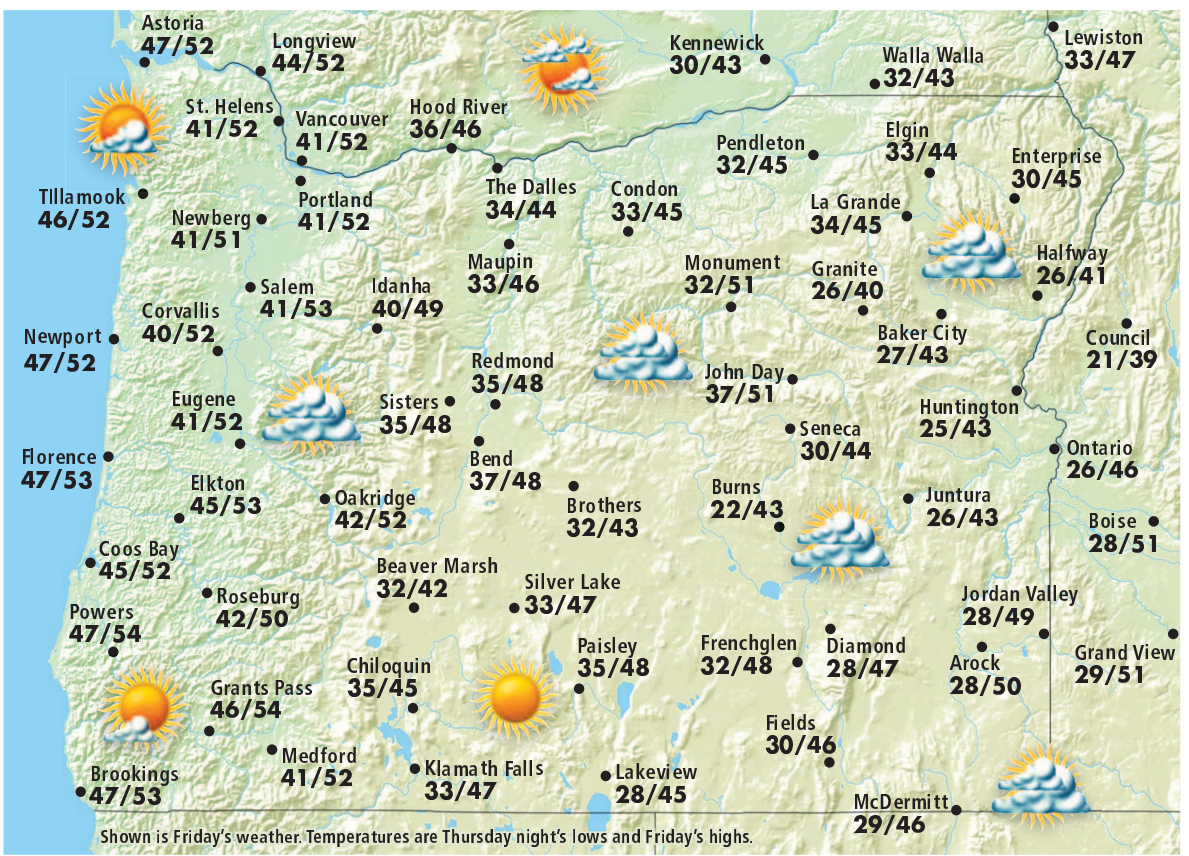
AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon Wind	S at 10 to 20 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.1
Evapotranspiration	0.07

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday night's lows and Friday's highs.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	52/41/r	51/38/r
Bend	48/35/r	46/33/r
Boise	51/38/c	50/36/r
Brookings	53/45/r	55/40/r
Burns	43/31/r	43/28/r
Coos Bay	52/44/r	51/41/r
Corvallis	52/42/r	50/38/r
Council	39/32/c	41/34/r
Elgin	44/37/r	45/35/r
Eugene	52/42/r	49/38/r
Hermiston	42/38/r	48/40/r
Hood River	46/40/r	49/39/r
Imnaha	49/40/c	50/39/r
John Day	51/42/r	49/36/r
Joseph	44/34/c	44/33/r
Kennewick	43/38/r	48/40/r
Klamath Falls	47/33/r	45/29/sn
Lakeview	45/32/r	42/29/r
Lewisville	47/39/r	52/42/r
Longview	52/42/r	50/39/r
Meacham	43/36/r	44/35/r
Medford	52/42/r	52/40/r
Newport	52/45/r	52/39/r
Olympia	51/41/r	51/34/r
Ontario	46/35/c	46/34/r
Pasco	41/35/r	44/38/r
Pendleton	45/39/r	47/38/r
Portland	52/42/r	50/38/r
Powers	54/46/r	52/42/r
Redmond	48/35/r	48/31/r
Roseburg	50/44/r	50/41/r
Salem	53/41/r	50/37/r
Spokane	39/36/r	41/33/sh
The Dalles	44/37/r	47/38/r
Ukiah	47/35/r	46/35/r
Walla Walla	43/40/r	48/40/r

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Anthony Lakes	29 23	42 25
MT. EMILY REC.	40 33	44 29
EAGLE CAP WILD.	29 19	44 26
WALL OWA LAKE	42 29	45 34
THIEF VALLEY RES.	43 27	45 34



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