

Grandma is collateral damage in man's war with mother

DEAR ABBY: I'm close to 70 and have three grown children. I've been a widow for 15 years. My oldest son, age 45, has pretty much cut himself off from our fairly close family. His reason: Two years ago, after I had surgery for lung cancer, he claims I told him I wished I had never had children. This couldn't be further from the truth. All three of mine were planned.

My other children decided the hospital was overmedicating me and that most of what I was babbling was nonsense. I only remember bits and pieces and have no idea whether my recollections are accurate. I have no problem dealing with my son's attitude; I'm a realist. The problem is the way it's affecting my 90-year-old mother, who lives with me. She feels he has cut her out of his life, too, because of me, and it appears she's right.

How can we convince him he's ripping his grandmother's heart out when he won't talk to either of us? She doesn't deserve such treatment, and he has no right to hurt her this way.

— BEWILDERED IN FLORIDA
DEAR BEWILDERED: If this is the ONLY reason for the estrangement from your son — which I doubt — have his siblings talk to him and point out that: (1) You were so drugged up after your surgery you were not in your right mind, therefore you shouldn't be punished or held responsible for any gibberish that came out of your mouth during that period, and (2) it is wrong to punish Granny in such a heartless fashion for something that has nothing to do with her. Perhaps they will be able to get through to him where you cannot.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a successful man. He is charming in public, but at heart he's a very private person. I was successful in my field, and I'm more outgoing.

He is proud to show me off at parties because people find me interesting and witty, but without fail, at the end of the night he will tell me that somewhere during the evening I "crossed the line." Perhaps I spent too much time talking with another man, or

said something he found inappropriate. If I look the wrong way, he accuses me of flirting with someone. Invariably I get a lecture on the way home or the next morning.

I told him this morning that I hate to go out with other people now because of it. He took great offense at that and said, "You are not the VICTIM here. You are the PERPETRATOR."

Sometimes I do say things that come out wrong, but I don't mean them. It would kill me to know that I hurt someone with my words. I am not interested in any other man. I love my husband. What can I do?

— LIFE OF THE PARTY IN VIRGINIA
DEAR LIFE: Not knowing either of you, I cannot determine if your husband is extremely controlling, jealous and insecure, or whether you are doing something out of line. You and your husband could benefit from discussing this with a licensed marriage and family therapist. If he refuses to go — and he may — you should go without him. If your behavior at these gatherings was really unacceptable or an embarrassment, he would not want to "show you off at parties." You shouldn't have to worry that you'll be lectured the next day for just being yourself. Something is definitely wrong here, and I don't think it's with you.

DEAR ABBY: I have enjoyed the columns you've printed about people whose names matched their professions, and wonder if you would be interested in an incident that happened to my sister. Her name is Dragony, and she works in a pharmacy located in a medical building. Her license plate reads DRAGONY. Well, someone went into the pharmacy and asked the girl at the counter, "Who is Dr. Agony?" I still laugh when I think about it.

— KATHI IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR KATHI: Funny! Your sister's license plate reminds me of one that belongs to my neighbor, who happens to be an anesthesiologist. Her license plate reads: EPI-DURL.

I am still hearing from readers offering names — and some of them are a hoot.

Snow too thick to plow keeps skiers from California resorts

By Olga Rodriguez
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO — Winter weather enveloping California's mountains for a fourth straight day Friday kept skiers from hitting the slopes at the start of the Presidents Day holiday weekend, with snow so deep that plows could not tackle it and cities scrambled to find places to pile it.

Several routes to the ski mecca of Lake Tahoe shut down, including about 70 miles of Interstate 80 from Colfax, California, to the Nevada state line.

I-80 was reopened to passenger vehicles Friday evening.

Chains were required for travel in many other parts of the towering Sierra Nevada. "All avid skiers are itching to get out on the mountain, but the roads are pretty treacherous right now," said Kevin Cooper, marketing director for Lake Tahoe TV.

The storm was expected to dump between 3 and 6 feet of fresh snow in a region where some ski resorts reported getting 3 feet since Thursday. Officials warned of avalanches in the greater Lake Tahoe Area, where heavy snow and high winds through Sunday.

Storms also have swamped much of the state with heavy rain that crumbled roads and flooded a resort north of San Francisco where a kayaker paddled through a meeting room after a nearby river swelled over its banks. The onslaught extended into Arizona and other parts of the U.S. West, with a winter blast also hitting Missouri.

In California, the heavy snow forced some skiers to cancel their plans.

Aura Campa of Oakland and her partner were hoping to take advantage of their season passes and the fresh powder at Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows resort, but a near-accident on an icy road last weekend made them reconsider.

When a main highway through the Lake Tahoe area was crushed with traffic, she drove her SUV on a side road. Her vehicle didn't have chains, and when it was going uphill, the vehicle went into reverse.

"That was really scary for us. It was on a tiny hill with a small amount of ice but that was enough for us to think twice about traveling through a snowstorm again," Campa said. "We're not going to risk it."

Authorities told people to stay home as snow kept piling up.

"State Route 267 is so deep that plows can no longer plow. They have ordered up a large blower to try and clear the pass," Placer County sheriff's Lt. Andrew Scott said in a tweet with a video of the snow-covered road.

About 140 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Mountain was about to break a more than 30-year record for monthly snowfall, resort spokesman Justin Romano said. Skiers and snowboarders should be able to reach the slopes as long as they have chains or snow tires, he said.

The resort has already gotten 163 inches of snow this month, just 5 inches shy of its

snowfall record for February, set in 1986.

The storms heavily damaged — and in some places destroyed — parts of roads leading to Idyllwild and other mountain communities about 100 miles east of Los Angeles, but access was not cut off.

Crews were starting repairs on State Routes 74 and 243. A route combining surviving portions of the two mountain highways and a county road kept the communities connected to the world, but authorities urged outsiders to leave the tenuous route to residents.

"We're discouraging tourism and snow play up there this weekend," California Department of Transportation spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said.

Highways also were damaged in the nearby San Bernardino Mountains, where ski resorts around Big Bear Lake have an abundance of snow. Kasinga said those routes would be open to the public.

In other parts of California, crews turned to cleanup after a storm Thursday led to at least three deaths.

A woman pulled from rising water in a flood-control channel in Corona, southeast of Los Angeles, had a heart attack and died. About 50 miles (80 kilometers) east, a man was found dead after floodwaters swept him away in a rural community. A man's body also was recovered from a fast-flowing creek in Escondido, northeast of San Diego.

Winter weather extended into Arizona and the Rocky Mountains.

weather

TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Cloudy and cold	Low clouds and cold	Mostly cloudy and cold	A bit of morning snow	Showers of rain and snow
Baker City 18 Comfort Index™ 0	33 9	32 19	35 20	36 20
La Grande 22 Comfort Index™ 0	33 11	33 24	35 22	34 20
Enterprise 20 Comfort Index™ 0	29 8	31 20	33 17	31 16

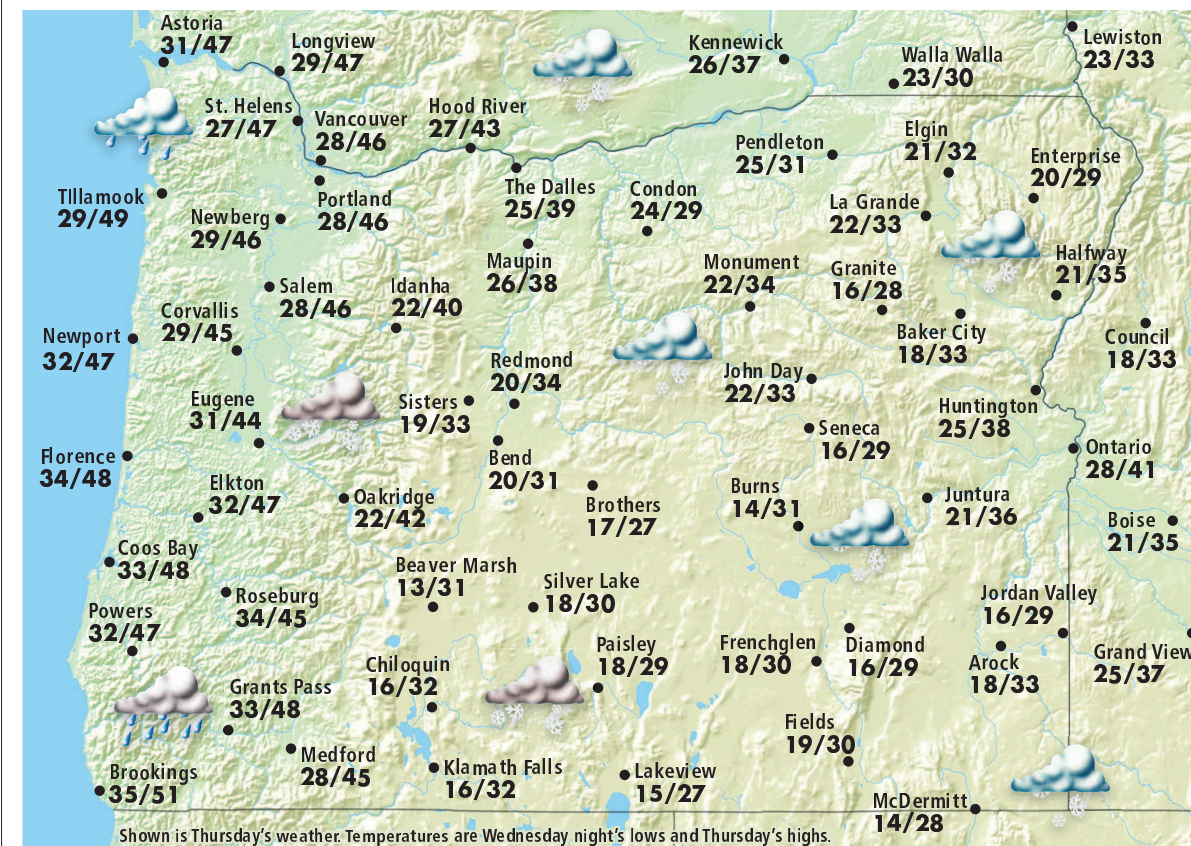
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
TEMPERATURES			
High Monday	33°	31°	32°
Low Monday	25°	25°	25°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	Trace	Trace	Trace
Month to date	1.15	1.74	4.02
Normal month to date	0.37	0.71	1.50
Year to date	1.69	3.35	7.42
Normal year to date	1.17	2.34	4.67

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	MONDAY EXTREMES
HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
Lowest relative humidity	High: 90° Immokalee, Fla.
Afternoon wind	Low: -32° Daniel, Wyo.
Hours of sunshine	Wettest: 0.86" Norfolk, Va.
Evapotranspiration	OREGON
	High: 52° Brookings
	Low: 2° Lakeview
	Wettest: 0.03" The Dalles

RESERVOIR STORAGE	SUN & MOON
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	36% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	41% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	53% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	28% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	105% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)	MOON PHASES
Grande Ronde at Troy	N.A.
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	10 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	146 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	201 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES				RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY				
City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W	City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W	Activity	Forecast	
Astoria	47/34/s	46/36/r	Lewiston	33/15/c	30/25/c	Anthony Lakes	Frigid	12 0
Bend	31/13/sf	38/26/c	Longview	47/30/pc	43/35/r	MT. EMILY REC.	A little a.m. snow	22 10
Boise	35/8/pc	34/21/pc	Meacham	30/9/sn	32/22/pc	EAGLE CAP WILD.	A little a.m. snow	19 0
Brookings	51/31/s	50/39/c	Medford	45/22/pc	45/31/c	WALLOWA LAKE	A little a.m. snow	29 7
Burns	31/5/pc	30/18/pc	Newport	47/34/s	47/38/r	THIEF VALLEY RES.	Cold with some sun	33 9
Coos Bay	48/32/pc	49/40/r	Olympia	45/27/pc	42/30/r	PHILLIPS LAKE	A little a.m. snow	30 5
Corvallis	45/28/pc	46/35/c	Ontario	41/19/pc	38/28/pc	BROWNLEE RES.	Mostly cloudy	36 12
Council Bluffs	33/6/c	28/16/pc	Pasco	35/17/pc	33/21/c	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A little a.m. snow	25 5
Elgin	32/10/sn	33/25/c	Pendleton	31/13/sn	37/30/c	MCKAY RESERVOIR	A little a.m. snow	31 15
Eugene	44/28/pc	48/36/c	Portland	46/29/s	45/35/r	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Cloudy and cold	33 11
Hermiston	37/15/c	38/28/c	Powers	47/28/pc	49/38/c			
Hood River	43/26/pc	42/33/c	Redmond	34/14/pc	38/26/c			
Imnaha	35/5/c	36/25/pc	Roseburg	45/28/pc	47/37/c			
John Day	33/10/c	35/25/pc	Salem	46/29/pc	46/35/r			
Joseph	29/7/sn	30/19/pc	Spokane	29/7/c	24/19/c			
Kennewick	37/19/pc	38/26/c	The Dalles	39/23/pc	38/30/c			
Klamath Falls	32/7/c	34/18/pc	Ukiah	28/8/c	32/22/pc			
Lakeview	27/4/pc	30/13/pc	Walla Walla	30/14/c	30/28/c			

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