

Drunk friend spills the beans on cause of parents' separation

DEAR ABBY: My parents were separated for four years while I was in high school and college. It was a difficult time, and it strained my relationship with my dad. I was told they had "grown apart" but got back together.

I was out with my sister's friends last night, and one of them got drunk and told me the reason my parents split up was Dad had been seeing another woman and accidentally texted my sister instead of this other woman, and everyone in my family knew about it!



DEAR ABBY

Dad and I are finally in a good place. I'm hurt that he intentionally did something that broke up my family. It wasn't something that just happened because they drifted apart.

I don't want to ask my sister and bring up painful memories for her. My parents have never talked about their separation. What should I do?

— MIXED-UP DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: When infidelity happens there is usually a reason, and those reasons can vary. It's possible that your parents, who understandably don't want to relive that painful chapter, were having problems before the affair began. What is important now is that your family is back together.

My advice is to allow them privacy. However, if you feel you cannot do that, then tell them TOGETHER what your sister's friend told you.

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering what the rule of etiquette is when it comes to unwanted children's gifts. It's one thing if my husband and I receive gifts we don't want and get rid of them, but I'm not sure what to do with gifts for our kids.

We live in a small apartment and sometimes get large-ticket items we don't have room for. We've asked our family to keep the items small, but some of them ignore our request. A few times we've sold the items and put the money into our child's bank account. But we aren't sure that is the best way. Also, what do we do when family sends

our children stuff we don't want them to have? Some may be inappropriate, broken or junk. My in-laws have little to no interaction with our kids, and this is the only way they've chosen to make their presence known. We are reluctant to discard the only attention our kids get from their grandparents. What is the right thing to do?

— NO MORE GIFTS

DEAR NO MORE GIFTS:

Because you have made your wishes known to the grandparents and they are ignored, you and your children should thank them for their gifts — and you should continue repurposing items that are too large for your dwelling or unusable. Do not feel guilty for doing so because someone else may be better able to put them to use.

DEAR ABBY: I recently played both sides during a sticky and challenging time. Now I have a friend who is really upset with me, and I don't know what to do. I thought I was doing the right thing, but in my effort to not hurt my friend, I have done more damage. I'm not sure this can be repaired. What should I do?

— MESSED UP IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR MESSED UP: Apologize to your friend. And if the friendship cannot be repaired, LEARN from it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband likes to wear my underwear. It grosses me out. He knows I don't approve and promises he won't do it again, but he does. What should I do?

— DISTURBED IN TEXAS

DEAR DISTURBED: The first thing to do would be to understand that not every woman who is married to a cross-dresser feels as strongly as you do about it. Do some research about cross-dressing — its causes and why some men feel the compulsion to do it. If after that you are still grossed out and unable to understand why your husband needs to do this, it may be time to schedule some marriage counseling to see if your marriage can be saved.

'Bomb cyclone' snow, wind making travel dangerous in Midwest

Black Nicholson
The Associated Press

NORTH DAKOTA — Heavy snow and strong winds hammered parts of the central U.S. on Thursday, knocking out power to tens of thousands of people and creating hazardous travel conditions a day after pummeling Colorado.

The spring blizzard — the second "bomb cyclone" storm system to hit the region in a month — left behind hundreds of canceled flights at Denver International Airport, along with wintertime temperatures and snarled traffic before blanketing parts of South Dakota in as much as 18 inches of snow.

Hundreds of schools canceled classes in Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota, where the governor closed state offices in much of the state for a second day Thursday because of dangerous road conditions.

The Minnesota State Patrol said it had responded to more than 200 crashes statewide since Wednesday, while the National Guard stood ready to rescue any stranded motorists. In Nebraska, the State Patrol sent additional troopers into the state's panhandle, and several highways were closed.

Whiteout conditions were reported in western Nebraska and northwest Kansas, while blizzard conditions were expected to linger into early Friday in Minnesota.

A "bomb cyclone" is a weather phenomenon that entails a rapid drop in air pressure and a storm strengthening explosively. Mike Connelly, a weather service meteorologist in Aberdeen, South Dakota, said this week's storm system drew up moisture from the Gulf of Mexico as it moved out of the Rocky Mountains.

Connelly said that could translate into as much as 2 feet of snow in parts of South Dakota and Minnesota, and make the snowfall "historic."

"This time of year (in) the central, southern Plains, you get severe weather — thunderstorms and tornadoes. Unfortunately in the Dakotas, we get feet of snow," he said.

Nearly 40,000 homes and business were without power across Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa early Thursday, according to PowerOutage.us. The main culprit was snow and ice accumulating on power lines, along with strong winds, said Matt Lindstrom, spokesman for Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy.

In southwest Minnesota, the National Weather Service said there could be half an inch of ice accumula-

tions and winds up to 50 mph.

The system also created hazardous wildfire conditions in parts of Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. An unusual but not rare weather phenomenon known as "thunder snow" — snow accompanied by thunder and lightning — was reported Wednesday in central South Dakota.

In addition to the immediate impacts, the storm threatened to swell rivers in the Midwest that flooded after March's drenching, which caused billions of dollars in flood damage in Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa and South Dakota. Forecasters aren't expecting similar flooding this time around thanks to the absence of a wet snowpack on frozen ground.

But even moderate rises in the Missouri River will push more water into drenched Fremont County in southwestern Iowa, Emergency Manager Mike Creclius said. Last month's flooding swamped 455 houses and thousands of acres of farmland in his region.

"The problem is that we're not getting any time for the water to recede and things to dry out, so the levees can't be fixed; houses can't be fixed; crops can't be planted," he said.

weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	Patchy clouds	Showers around	Cooler with a shower	Mostly cloudy, a shower	Rather cloudy, a shower
Baker City	30	60 38	51 31	53 33	55 35
La Grande	35	55 37	47 30	50 33	53 35
Enterprise	31	54 35	44 27	47 31	49 32

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	52°	47°	47°
Low Wednesday	38°	37°	38°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	Trace	0.03	0.65
Month to date	0.52	1.46	3.59
Normal month to date	0.25	0.49	0.66
Year to date	4.15	6.37	15.31
Normal year to date	2.45	4.72	8.36

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 107° Del Rio, Texas
Low: 5° Dakota Hill, Colo.
Wettest: 2.51" Stampede Pass, Wash.

OREGON
High: 59° Hermiston
Low: 21° Lakeview
Wettest: 0.67" Tillamook

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	SW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	1.7
Evapotranspiration	0.08

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)	
Phillips Reservoir	30% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	86% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	71% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	98% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	83% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	107% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	20700 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	688 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	2160 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1330 cfs
Powder River near Richland	1425 cfs

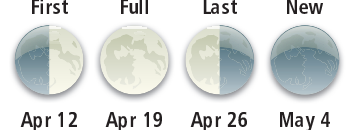
WEATHER HISTORY

The all-time measured wind speed record was set at Mt. Washington, N.H., on April 12, 1934. The wind averaged 186 mph for five minutes and gusted briefly to a record 231 mph.

SUN & MOON

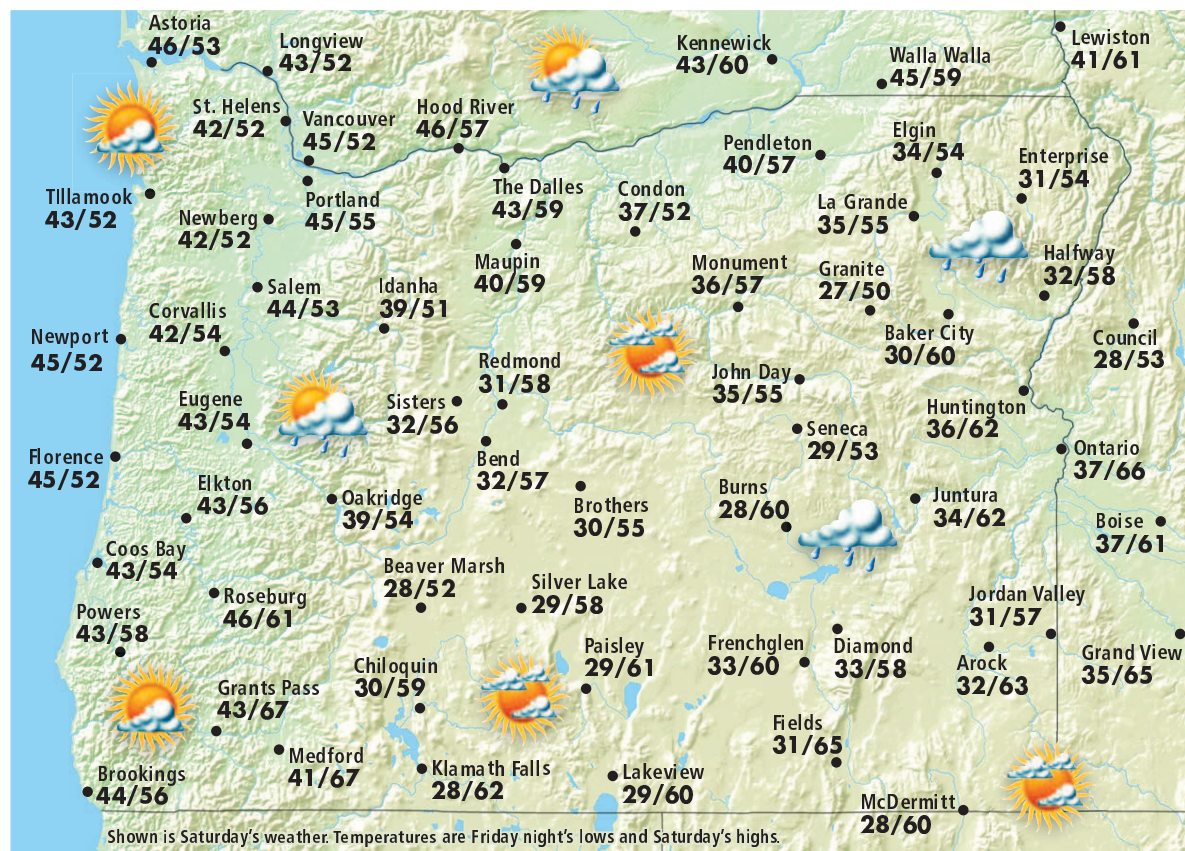
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	6:13 a.m.	6:11 a.m.
Sunset	7:34 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Moonrise	11:33 a.m.	12:40 p.m.
Moonset	2:20 a.m.	3:11 a.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT.		SUN.		
	Hi/Low	Hi/Low	Hi/Low	Hi/Low	
Astoria	53/42/r	52/40/r	Lewiston	61/44/sh	53/37/c
Bend	57/37/sh	47/29/c	Longview	52/41/r	52/38/r
Boise	61/46/pc	55/38/sh	Meacham	52/36/sh	44/30/c
Brookings	56/46/pc	53/41/sh	Medford	67/45/pc	56/39/sh
Burns	60/38/c	50/30/c	Newport	52/44/r	51/42/r
Coos Bay	54/44/r	53/41/r	Olympia	53/37/r	52/34/r
Corvallis	54/41/r	54/39/r	Ontario	66/45/pc	59/39/c
Council	53/38/c	48/30/sh	Pasco	60/43/sh	59/36/c
Elgin	54/37/sh	46/30/c	Pendleton	57/41/sh	52/36/c
Eugene	54/41/r	54/39/r	Portland	55/42/r	54/41/r
Hermiston	60/44/sh	58/38/c	Powers	58/44/sh	51/37/c
Hood River	57/44/r	53/39/r	Redmond	58/37/sh	50/31/c
Idanha	58/41/c	49/32/c	Roseburg	61/46/sh	57/41/r
John Day	55/39/c	46/30/sh	Salem	53/41/r	53/40/r
Joseph	52/35/c	44/27/c	Spokane	51/37/sh	51/32/c
Kennewick	60/44/sh	59/37/c	The Dalles	59/44/sh	55/37/r
Klamath Falls	62/38/pc	51/30/sh	Ukiah	50/34/sh	44/28/sh
Lakeview	60/40/pc	50/32/sh	Walla Walla	59/42/sh	54/40/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

City	SAT.	SUN.
ANTHONY LAKES	35 19	53 34
PHILLIPS LAKE	44 29	59 41
MT. EMILY REC.	41 26	48 32
BROWNLEE RES.	52 35	57 40
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	60 38	55 37
WALLOWA LAKE		
MCKAY RESERVOIR		
THIEF VALLEY RES.		
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK		



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