

Mother-in-law's Alzheimer's keeps couple tied to home

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 35 years. During the last six years, my mom died, my dad moved in and then he passed away at 91. Dad traveled, including to see my three siblings, and had a girlfriend. Three years ago, my mother-in-law, who is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's, moved in. My husband is an only child and has no other family nearby. A couple of years ago, our sons, both of whom are in their 30s and had been in the Air Force, moved in. They have steady jobs and contribute to the household. One just bought a house.



DEAR ABBY

My problem is with my husband. Because his mother can't be left alone, we rarely go anywhere anymore. And even when we are out, he's glued to his phone. They don't have a strong relationship and rarely speak to each other. When I try to talk to him about it, his answer is, "I promised I'd never put her in a nursing home," and, "Honor thy mother and father."

We have been to counseling. It didn't help. We are in our mid-60s and in good shape. I would like to travel before we won't be able to anymore. His mother is almost 90 and has no other health problems, so she could live five or six more years. I feel he should put her in assisted living so we can get on with our lives again. I'm tired of taking care of others, and I want to "retire," too. Am I selfish for feeling this way? How do others deal with this?

—**HOW MUCH LONGER?**
DEAR HOW: I have mixed feelings about your letter. Considering that your father

socialize with them otherwise. However, if your husband still insists they receive an invitation, he should follow up the invitation with a phone call detailing what will be expected of guests regarding civility and decorum.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 36 years has never introduced me to a restaurant, bought concert tickets or planned a vacation. She seldom suggests movies she wants to see or introduces me to any form of music. She claps her hands like a little girl when I say we are going out for ice cream, a walk or to a festival.

I have encouraged her repeatedly over the years to be a more active participant in our relationship and to be my partner. Nothing changes. If not for my encouragement, she would have never gotten her degree, gone to concerts or on vacations or experienced life. I plan everything. To her credit,

she's willing to go anywhere and do almost anything, but I'm increasingly resentful that my wife acts more like a daughter than a partner. I have been trying desperately for years to accept this, but I'm sick of it.

—**TIRED OF IT IN OHIO**
DEAR TIRED: Your wife appears to be a follower rather than a leader. You should have raised this issue a long time ago and included her when you were planning outings. Because the status quo is no longer working for you, you must tell her exactly what you have put in your letter. And while you are at it, show her HOW to do the research so she can suggest things to do, and things may improve. But do not blame her entirely because some of it may rest with you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are arguing about what college our son, "Wyatt,"

should go to next year. I think it should be our son's decision to choose the college with the degree program he wants. My husband disagrees. He wants our son to leave the nest, explore the world and become more independent. My husband says Wyatt is a "mama's boy" and too reliant on me.

Wyatt wants to go to our local university, which offers the degree program he wants. He said: "I can go to the local school. You and Dad won't have to pay room and board or out-of-state tuition, and I can keep my job and help pay for groceries or help with tuition."

For some reason, that statement means nothing to my husband. He wants Wyatt out of the house. Should I let my husband duke it out with our son because I have already stated my opinion more than once, or keep arguing that Wyatt should pick the college? This whole thing is stressing our son out because he wants

to please his father, and I'm tired of my husband coming down on me for how I raised our son.

—**CHALLENGED IN NEW MEXICO**

DEAR CHALLENGED: I have to wonder if there is some other issue going on between your husband and your son that you didn't mention. Wyatt appears to be thinking logically. He's working and has offered to contribute to the household expenses. Many parents would be thrilled their son chose a school nearby. That your husband would label your son a "mama's boy" and toss him out of the house is not helpful; it is hostile. Criticizing you for the way Wyatt has been raised is a cheap shot.

Before making up your mind, talk to Wyatt's guidance counselor at school. If the person knows your son, it could prove helpful to hear his or her perspective.

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	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Sunny and pleasant	Sunny and delightful	Plenty of sun	
Baker City	49	88 43	81 41	86 43	90 44
La Grande	54	84 48	78 46	84 47	89 50
Enterprise	52	81 46	75 43	80 47	86 51

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.

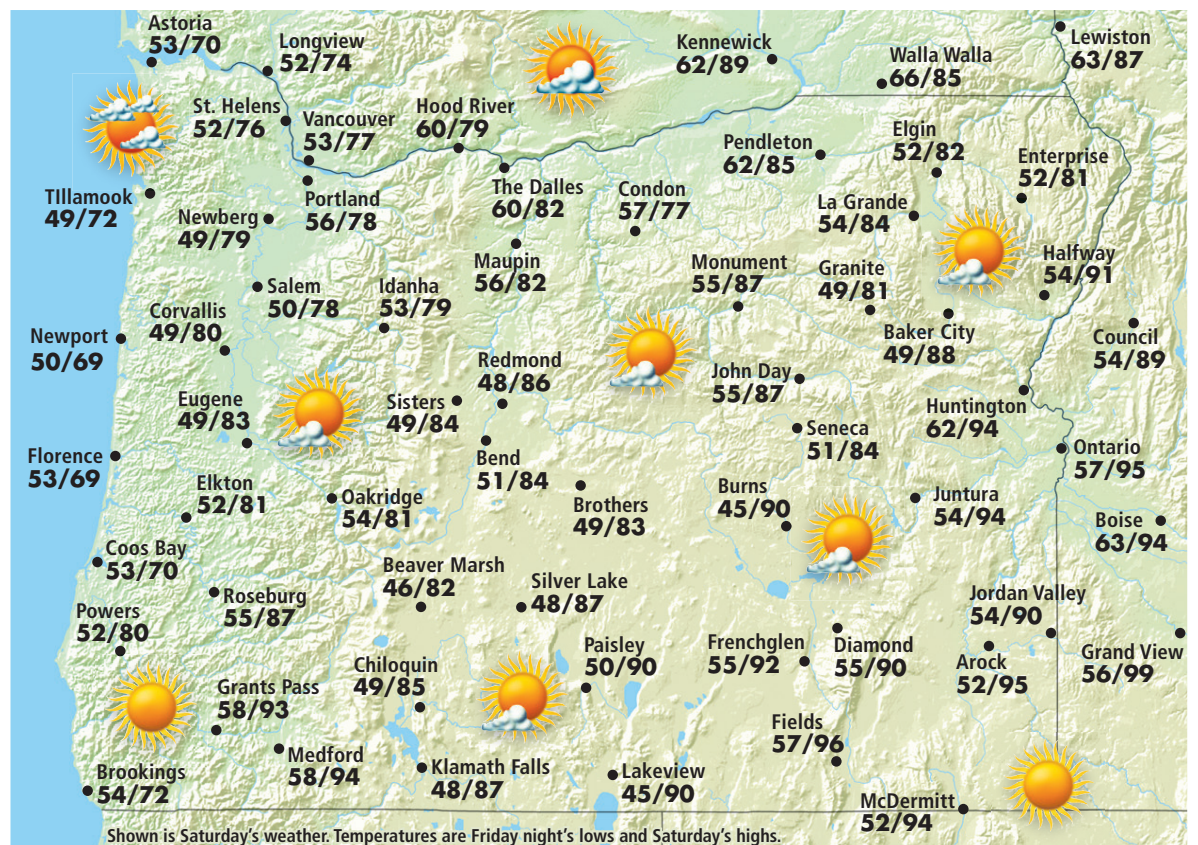
ALMANAC		WED. EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Wednesday	89°	89°	91°
Low Wednesday	56°	60°	54°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	Trace	0.01	0.00
Month to date	0.21	0.48	0.37
Normal month to date	0.46	0.57	0.42
Year to date	6.29	11.29	20.77
Normal year to date	6.82	10.59	14.79

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%	Afternoon wind	WNW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	10.7	Evapotranspiration	0.23

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)		STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	35% of capacity	Grande Ronde at Troy	583 cfs
Unity Reservoir	45% of capacity	Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	86 cfs
Owyhee Reservoir	77% of capacity	Burnt River near Unity	110 cfs
McKay Reservoir	60% of capacity	Umatilla River near Gibbon	40 cfs
Wallowa Lake	48% of capacity	Minam River at Minam	106 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir	29% of capacity	Powder River near Richland	24 cfs

SUN & MOON		MOON PHASES	
Sunrise	6:03 a.m.	Last	Aug 23
Sunset	7:47 p.m.	New	Aug 30
Moonrise	11:54 p.m.	First	Sep 5
Moonset	2:06 p.m.	Full	Sep 13

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY		
ANTHONY LAKES	Partly sunny	60 38	PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly sunny
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly sunny	70 45	BROWNLEE RES.	Mostly sunny
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Partly sunny	69 37	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Sunshine and nice
WALLOWA LAKE	Partly sunny; nice	83 44	MCKAY RESERVOIR	Sunshine and nice
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Partly sunny	88 43	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Lots of sun; nice

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