

Husband checks out of marriage after wife's cancer diagnosis

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice for my dear friend. She needs to have chemotherapy and her husband says he won't help her when she gets sicker from the meds. She is devastated and feels like he isn't even her husband anymore.

He told her he will move out and put her into a nursing home and that they can break up. Any advice?

— DEVASTATED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DEVASTATED: I am appalled. That someone could be so heartless and cruel is deplorable. Your friend's husband appears to be one of those who becomes so freaked out by his spouse's cancer diagnosis that he cuts and runs instead of standing by her when the going gets tough. (Yes, regrettably, there are some.)

Her top priority right now has to be getting through this challenge, regardless of what it involves. Are there supportive friends or family members who are willing to see her through the term of her treatment?

If so, that's what I recommend.

When she recovers — because with the advances that are being made in cancer treatment every day, it is entirely possible — I hope she realizes how lucky she is to be rid of this poor excuse for a man.

DEAR ABBY: I am divorced and live alone, which I enjoy. I'm a homebody — I work and come home.

I dated a woman many years ago and we have reunited. I'm very much in love with her. She has family not far from here, and if I marry her, I know I'm going to be inundated with visits from them on a regular basis. Problem is, I love my privacy. I'm getting cold feet because of this. I have lived the way I do for a long time and I'm happy with it.

— COLD FEET IN THE SOUTH

DEAR COLD FEET: Have you talked to this lady about your concerns? If you haven't, it's time, because it's entirely possible that she loves her family as much as you love your privacy and won't want to be isolated from them.

In a situation like yours, if there is no compelling reason to tie the knot, perhaps

you should agree to leave the arrangement the way it is.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a neighborhood with nosy neighbors who like to gossip. My wife and I are private people and keep our business to ourselves. There is one person, a man who recently moved here, whom I consider to be my only good friend.

The other day my friend showed me a text he had received from another one of my neighbors — a doctor — asking him if I had a certain medical condition. My friend responded by saying that the topic had not been discussed. I find the inquiry to be inappropriate. It's really none of his business. I also believe my neighbor the doctor showed a lack of character and poor judgment. I value your input. Are my feelings out of line?

— TICKED OFF IN TAMPA

DEAR TICKED OFF: Your feelings are not out of line. If the doctor is truly concerned about your well-being and not neighborhood gossip, he should have asked you that question directly.

DEAR ABBY: My father was killed recently in a shooting. I have received text messages and phone calls from my immediate family and close friends. My mother-in-law was thoughtful enough to send me a card, and I called to thank her the day I received it.

My husband has other close relatives. None of them called me, not even my sister-in-law. They have my number, so that's not the issue. Is this the norm in the United States? I ask because I come from a different background, and I find this disheartening.

— GRIEVING IN NEVADA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragedy that took your father. When something so out of the ordinary happens, many people don't know what to say.

While something as simple as, "I'm so sorry," or, "You are in my prayers, and my thoughts are with you," would suffice, they are so fearful they will say the wrong thing that they say nothing. Your husband's family may fall into this category. Please try to forgive them.



David Goldman/The Associated Press

A man sunbathes amidst patches of dried out lawn from a lack of rain in Atlanta. Scientists say more than 45 million people across 14 Southern states are now in the midst of a drought that's cracking farm soil, drying up ponds and raising the risk of wildfires.

'Flash drought' worsening across 14 Southern states

By Jess Martin
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than 45 million people across 14 Southern states are now in the midst of what's being called a "flash drought" that's cracking farm soil, drying up ponds and raising the risk of wildfires, scientists said Thursday.

The weekly U.S. Drought Monitor report released Thursday shows extreme drought conditions in parts of Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and the Florida panhandle. Lesser drought conditions also have expanded in parts of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Overall, nearly 20 percent of the lower 48 U.S. states is experiencing drought conditions.

The drought accelerated rapidly in September, as record heat combined with little rainfall to worsen the parched conditions, said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the National Drought

Mitigation Center in Nebraska.

"Typically we look at drought as being a slow onset, slow-developing type phenomenon compared to other disasters that rapidly happen, so this flash drought term came about," Fuchs said. "The idea is that it's more of a rapidly developing drought situation compared to what we typically see."

Fuchs said he expects scientists to have further discussions about flash droughts, and perhaps develop parameters for what constitutes a flash drought.

Climate change is expected to make this kind of drought even hotter in the southern Great Plains, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported recently.

In a separate report this summer, NOAA scientists and researchers with the University of Colorado Boulder studied the impacts of the intense 2017 flash

drought in the northern Great Plains, which caused \$2.6 billion in losses in the region. A more arid landscape due to climate change "will make droughts of similar intensity 20 percent more likely than in the past," NOAA said in a summary of the research.

The current drought has been putting stress on a wide variety of crops across the South, including cotton in Alabama, peanuts in Georgia and tobacco in Virginia, according to reports from the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Pumpkins are faring better in Alabama, though they're somewhat smaller this year due to the drought.

"We would have liked to have had a few more pumpkins this year, but we do have pumpkins and we are selling pumpkins — that's the good news," said Doug Chapman, a commercial horticulture expert with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	A couple of showers late	Mostly cloudy, a shower	Sunny and colder	Sunny, but cold	Mostly sunny and cool
Baker City	41	54 31	44 18	49 20	55 25
Comfort Index™	10	1	0	2	3
La Grande	46	52 30	42 20	47 24	55 31
Comfort Index™	10	1	0	2	3
Enterprise	44	49 28	37 18	42 22	52 30
Comfort Index™	10	0	0	2	3

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 Saturday	61°	60°	59°
Low Saturday	27°	29°	32°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Saturday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	Trace	0.01
Normal month to date	0.09	0.15	0.18
Year to date	7.03	12.51	22.69
Normal year to date	7.71	11.69	16.03

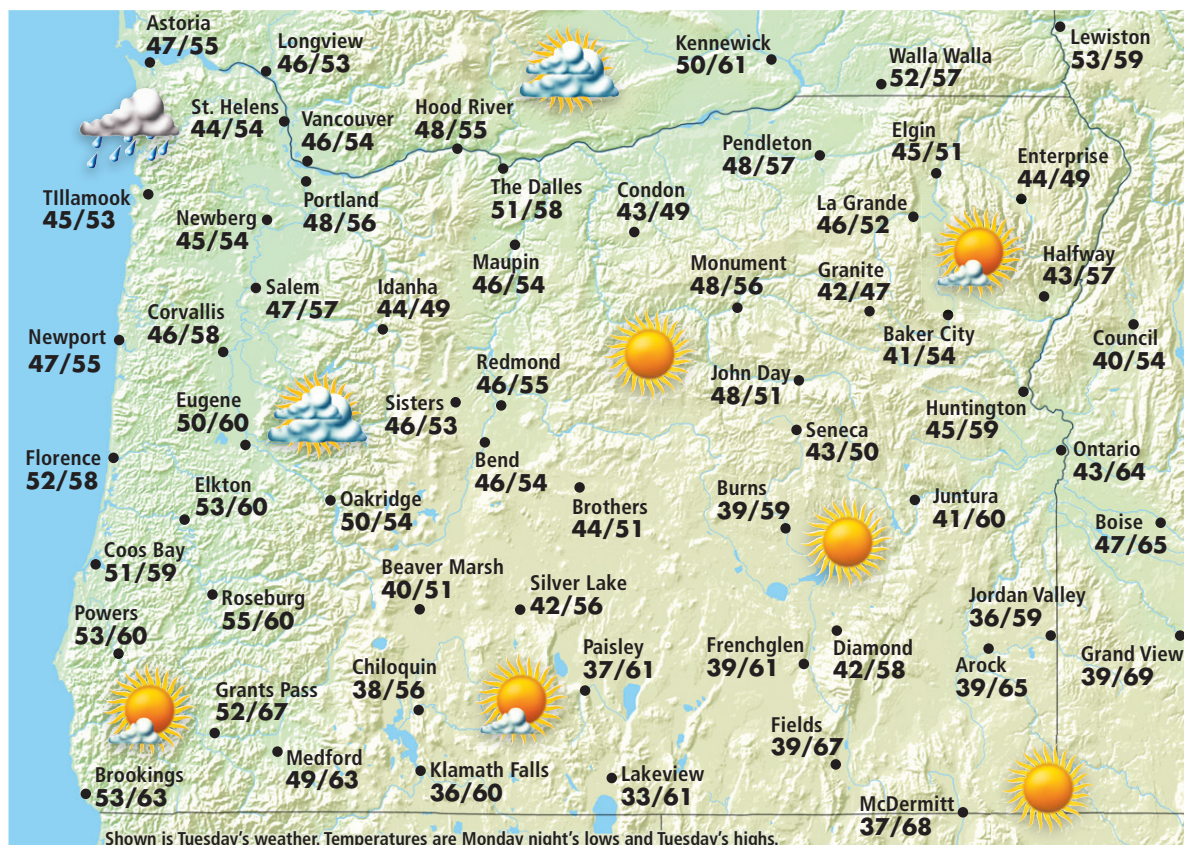
AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	9.8
Evapotranspiration	0.08

RESERVOIR STORAGE	STREAM FLOWS
Phillips Reservoir	Grande Ronde at Troy
Unity Reservoir	Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder
Owyhee Reservoir	Burnt River near Unity
McKay Reservoir	Umatilla River near Gibbon
Wallowa Lake	Minam River at Minam
Thief Valley Reservoir	Powder River near Richland

SUN & MOON	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	6:58 a.m.	6:59 a.m.
Sunset	6:22 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Moonrise	4:05 p.m.	4:38 p.m.
Moonset	12:34 a.m.	1:34 a.m.

MOON PHASES	Full	Last	New	First
	Oct 13	Oct 21	Oct 27	Nov 4

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY	
City	TUE. HI/LO/W	City	WED. HI/LO/W
Astoria	55/36/pc	Lewiston	59/36/c
Bend	54/26/pc	Longview	53/35/pc
Boise	65/36/pc	Meacham	48/28/c
Brookings	63/45/pc	Medford	63/37/pc
Burns	59/25/pc	Newport	55/38/pc
Coos Bay	59/42/pc	Olympia	54/34/pc
Corvallis	58/33/pc	Ontario	64/37/pc
Council	54/29/sh	Pasco	62/38/pc
Elgin	51/30/c	Pendleton	57/34/pc
Eugene	60/35/pc	Portland	56/38/sh
Hermiston	62/37/pc	Powers	60/40/pc
Hood River	55/38/sh	Redmond	55/26/c
Imnaha	55/33/sh	Roseburg	60/39/pc
John Day	51/29/sh	Salem	57/34/pc
Joseph	48/27/sh	Spokane	51/28/pc
Kennewick	61/38/pc	The Dalles	58/38/pc
Klamath Falls	60/23/pc	Ukiah	48/26/r
Lakeview	61/22/pc	Walla Walla	57/35/pc

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