Boyfriend's prison record opens him up to judgment

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have never been in love before, and I have just learned the man I'm seeing is a former felon. It was nothing having to do with sexual violence or killing anyone. I'm afraid if my family finds out, they will judge him. He works seven days a week and lives in a shelter because most places don't want to rent to felons. He treats me good and takes me out for dinners.

Maybe I'm stupid for not being judgmental, but he's a good person who has served his time for his crimes, and he's still being punished. Are people like him not allowed to be in love and have families too?

— IN LOVE IN NEBRASKA

DEAR IN LOVE: People make mistakes. People "like him" also fall in love, marry and have families. While there is bias against individuals with prison records, the fact that they served time does not guarantee they can't go on to live successful lives after their release. Explain that to your family, and suggest they take the time to get to know him before jumping to conclusions and making any final judgments.

DEAR ABBY: I've always been sensitive, but it has gotten worse since I became a mom a year ago. I dread watching or reading the news for fear of seeing a child, parent or animal has been hurt or mistreated. I'm a religious person, and I find myself asking God why bad things happen.

I know the tragic stories tend to make the headlines, but how would you suggest I learn to still see the good in the world? I can't quit seeing the news. We are inundated. I just wish the negativity of the world didn't get to me like it does. Advice, Abby?

— SUPER SENSITIVE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR SUPER SENSITIVE: That you have recently become a mother and are responsible for a helpless little person may have something to do with your feelings. But please don't judge the whole world or the people in it by the horror stories featured in the headlines, because they are misleading. Many people do positive things to help their neighbors and their communities that don't make the news. Consequently, we hear less about them.

I combat feelings like those you are experiencing by taking a "vacation" from reading or watching the news for a few days or a week when I think it is affecting me emotionally. I suggest you try it. Also, while your schedule as a new mother may be a busy one, if you can make the time, consider volunteering at your local library or a senior citizens' center. If you do, it may help you feel less helpless, knowing you are not only doing something positive but also making a significant difference in someone else's life.

DEAR ABBY: I have been retired for a little more than a year, and I enjoy it, except for one problem. My husband seems to think that since I'm home, I should be constantly busy — cleaning, cooking, doing SOMETHING. He accuses me of being lazy. I think he may be jealous that I don't work anymore. What do you think?

— RETIREE IN GEORGIA

DEAR RETIREE: I think you may have hit the nail on the head. Things might improve if you tell him less often how much you're enjoying it.

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old granddaughter has lived for the past several years in an environment with adults who have done drugs, can't or won't keep a job and are in and out of jail. I want her to have a better life, and I try to explain what a responsible adult life looks like. But when I do, she accuses me of being judgmental and nonaccepting because these people are "nice." How can I get her to understand that the lifestyle she's exposed to isn't good without coming off as judgmental?

— AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

DEAR AT A LOSS: The lessons we teach others don't always have to be verbal. One way would be to expose your granddaughter — as often as possible — to people who have chosen a different way of life and are reaping the rewards for it. Perhaps then she will begin to draw her own conclusions and realize that she can have a different life if she's willing to work toward it.

Syrian advance sends hundreds of thousands fleeing in Idlib

By Sarah El Deeb and Suzan Fraser
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey on Friday sent more troops and tanks to bolster its military presence in northwestern Syria, where President Bashar Assad's forces have been advancing in a devastating, Russian-backed offensive that has sparked a massive wave of people fleeing in wet and blustery winter weather.

Syria's Idlib region near the border with Turkey is the last rebel-held bastion in the war-ravaged country. The push by Assad's forces into towns and villages in the province over the past months has uprooted more than a half-million people who fled the advancing troops. Many of them already have been displaced several times in the 8-year-old Syrian war.

The campaign also has angered Turkey, which backs the rebels, and brought the two countries' troops into a rare, direct confrontation: At least eight Turkish troops and civilians and 13 Syrian soldiers have been killed.

As Syrian and Russian warplanes indiscriminately pounded hospitals, clinics and schools in the enclave, civilians packed their belongings in cars, taxis and pickup trucks. They streamed toward the Turkish border with few options left that are outside Syrian government control.

Many end up in tents or sheltering in abandoned buildings during rainy and windy weather, with temperatures hovering around freezing but predicted to fall over the weekend.

"If they stay, they run the risk of falling victim to the indiscriminate violence taking place in urban areas. If they leave, they have nowhere to go, " said Lorenzo Redalié, head of the Aleppo office of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "The shelters can't accommodate everyone, and it is more and more challenging for humanitarians to reach them and meet their needs."

The Syrian offensive appears aimed for now at securing a strategic highway in rebel-controlled territory, as opposed to an all-out campaign to retake the entire province, including the city of Idlib, the densely populated provincial capital.

Earlier this week, Syrian government troops took control of the former rebel town of Saraqeb, which is strategic because it sits on the intersection of two major highways. One of them leads to the capital, Damascus, to the north, and another connects to the country's western and eastern regions.

Turkey, which backs the Syrian opposition and has been monitoring a cease-fire in the rebel enclave, has protested the government assault, calling it a violation of the truce it negotiated with Russia. In recent weeks, Ankara sent in troops and equipment to reinforce monitoring points it set up to observe a previous cease-fire, which has since crumbled, and also deployed forces around towns that are threatened by the Syrian advance.

Associated Press video showed a long line of armored vehicles and trucks, some carrying tanks, filing into rebel-controlled rural areas of the province. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war, said the new troops were deployed west of the town of Saraqeb. It was fifth known deployment of new troops into Syria over the last week, according to the Observatory and other opposition news outlets.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Low clouds	Decreasing clouds	Periods of clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
Baker City	27	41 21	43 21	43 26	44 24
Comfort Index™	1	3	3	4	5
La Grande	27	38 20	43 24	44 28	43 29
Comfort Index™	0	3	5	3	5
Enterprise	25	35 22	40 22	43 25	41 26
Comfort Index™	0	3	5	6	5

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 Thursday	50°	46°	47°
Low Thursday	30°	37°	37°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.56	2.10
Month to date	0.28	2.09	2.68
Normal month to date	0.13	0.22	0.50
Year to date	0.56	3.64	11.27
Normal year to date	0.93	1.85	3.67

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	55%
Afternoon wind	NNW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.5
Evapotranspiration	0.04
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	24% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	52% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	73% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	46% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	48% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	102% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	27300 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	107 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	20 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	10700 cfs
Minam River at Minam	1940 cfs
Powder River near Richland	302 cfs

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 88°	Immokalee, Fla.
Low: -32°	Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Wettest: 5.86"	Mount Airy, N.C.
OREGON	
High: 60°	Hermiston
Low: 21°	Ruch
Wettest: 1.36"	Meacham

WEATHER HISTORY

An arctic outbreak on Feb. 8, 1835, caused the temperature to drop to zero at Charleston, S.C., and to 8 degrees at Jacksonville, Fla. Florida's citrus industry was dealt a severe setback.

SUN & MOON

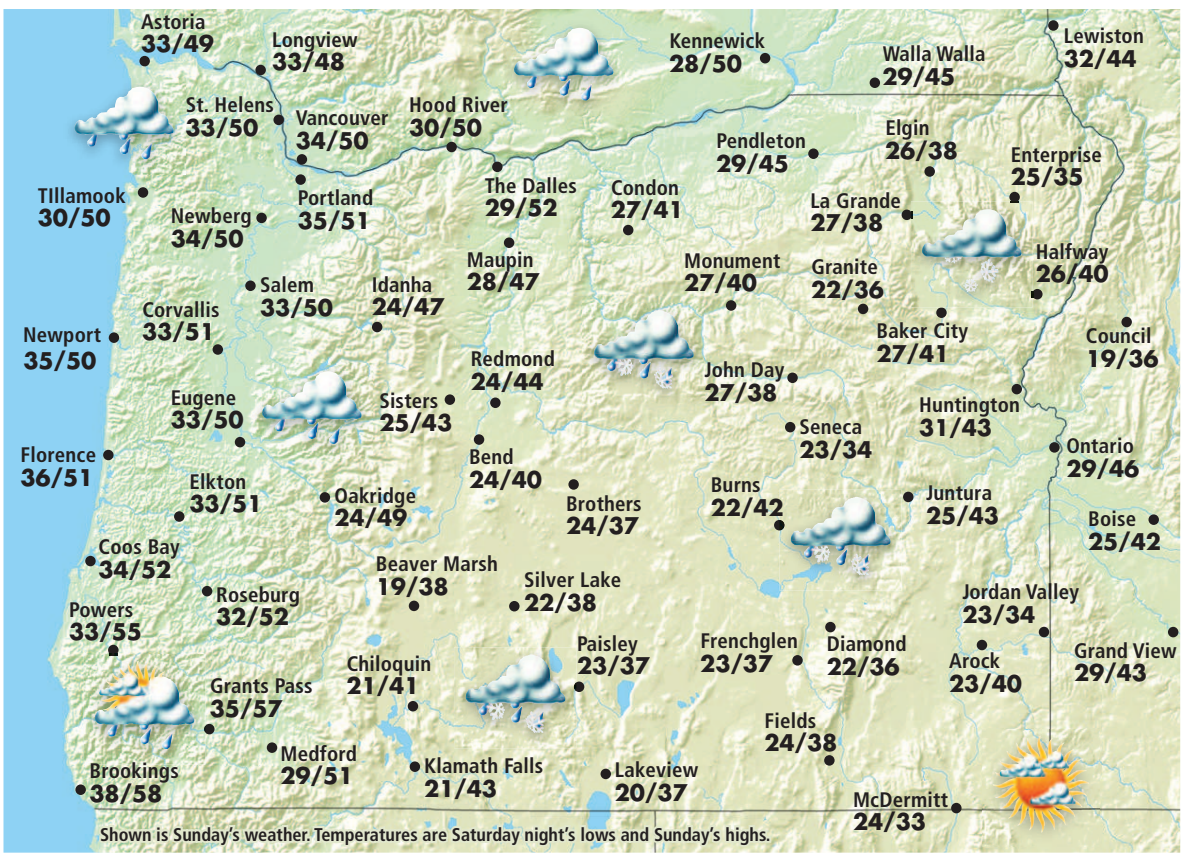
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	7:05 a.m.	7:04 a.m.
Sunset	5:09 p.m.	5:10 p.m.
Moonrise	4:34 p.m.	5:53 p.m.
Moonset	7:00 a.m.	7:41 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 23	Mar 2

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



Shown is Sunday's weather. Temperatures are Saturday night's lows and Sunday's highs.

REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W	City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	49/33/s	51/35/pc	Lewiston	44/29/c	45/27/c
Bend	40/22/pc	51/25/s	Longview	48/31/pc	49/30/pc
Boise	42/24/s	43/25/pc	Meacham	36/18/pc	41/22/pc
Brookings	58/42/s	61/46/s	Medford	51/29/s	53/32/s
Burns	42/18/pc	46/21/s	Newport	50/35/s	51/37/pc
Coos Bay	52/34/s	53/36/s	Olympia	48/31/pc	48/31/pc
Corvallis	51/31/s	51/31/pc	Ontario	46/23/s	46/26/pc
Council	36/16/pc	39/17/pc	Pasco	51/26/s	50/30/pc
Elgin	38/19/pc	43/21/pc	Pendleton	45/27/pc	47/28/pc
Eugene	50/31/pc	51/30/pc	Portland	51/33/pc	52/33/pc
Hermiston	50/27/pc	51/28/pc	Powers	55/31/s	59/34/s
Hood River	50/29/s	50/31/pc	Redmond	44/21/pc	51/25/s
Imnaha	39/16/c	43/21/pc	Roseburg	52/31/pc	54/32/pc
John Day	38/20/pc	45/22/pc	Salem	50/30/pc	51/30/pc
Joseph	34/21/pc	39/22/pc	Spokane	38/23/pc	39/23/pc
Kennewick	50/29/s	50/31/pc	The Dalles	52/29/s	51/31/pc
Klamath Falls	43/18/s	50/21/s	Ukiah	36/16/pc	41/19/pc
Lakeview	37/18/pc	45/19/s	Walla Walla	45/29/pc	45/30/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES
Clearing
24 13

MT. EMILY REC.
Clearing
30 20

EAGLE CAP WILD.
Periods of sun
27 12

WALLOWA LAKE
Clearing
34 21

THIEF VALLEY RES.
Partly sunny
41 21

PHILLIPS LAKE
Periods of sun
38 17

BROWNLEE RES.
Partly sunny
41 21

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Clearing
32 14

MCKAY RESERVOIR
Partly sunny
43 26

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Some sun
38 20