

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Two skiers defy death in Yosemite descent

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Two skiers navigated a thin layer of snow with no margin for error down the precipitous shoulder of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park and alternately skied and rappelled back to the valley floor in a daring feat.

Jason Torlano, 45, and Zach Milligan, 40, completed the descent in five hours Feb. 21 by carving their way in crusty snow and using ropes to rappel several sections of bare rock known as the “death slabs” beneath the iconic face of Half Dome, the Fresno Bee reported Feb. 25.

Snowboarder Jim Zellers is believed to be the first to descend the 800-foot upper section on the shoulder of the dome in 2000. But no one is known to have attempted the entire 4,800-foot descent from peak to valley.

Torlano said he had been dreaming about skiing the dome since his family moved to Yosemite when he was 5. He first climbed Half Dome as a youngster, clinging to the same cables tens of thousands of visitors do every year to ascend the final steep pitch up the rounded side of the polished granite feature. He advanced to become one of an elite group of climbers to scale the sheer granite



Jason Torlano via AP

Jason Torlano poses with his friend, Zach Milligan, right, on Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, California, on Feb. 21.

face using ropes only to catch his fall at least a dozen times. He later became a ranger in the park.

“It’s just always been there,” Torlano told the San Francisco Chronicle. “I’ve been attracted to Half Dome for as long as I can remember.”

After also serving a stint in the U.S. Army, he settled down with his wife and children in a community near Yosemite. He specializes in using ropes to work in high-altitude and dangerous settings.

He said he tried to ski down Half Dome each of the past three years, but called it off after finding unsuitable snow. This year, an early February storm filled Yosemite with fresh powder, including about

2-3 inches of snow at the peak of Half Dome.

He rented a friend’s small plane Feb. 19 to study the snow conditions and possible route before calling Milligan, a rock climbing buddy, to join him.

Milligan said he initially planned to only film Torlano skiing, but decided to make his own descent on skis. He said things turned dangerous when he skied over part of one of the cables and lost control before he used an ice ax to stop his slide and was able to right himself.

“I was just trying to stay in control and stay alive,” Milligan said. “You’re on that spine and you don’t have a lot of room for error.”

— Associated Press

‘Helpful’ husband is caught twice with younger women

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 26 years. Five years ago, my husband gave a young lady \$5,000 through credit card charges over a six-month period. We are not wealthy. When I found the charges in our credit report, he took a second job to pay it off.

I don’t think their relationship was sexual because he is impotent. It was hurtful. While he was taking this young lady shopping, he told me he was at work.

Recently, I (accidentally) caught him going to another young lady’s apartment to help her with things like hanging a TV. I don’t care if he helps people. What I DO care about is his sneaking around to do it. I have tried talking to him about why he feels he needs to sneak. He has no answer. What makes men sneak?

— DECEIVED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR DECEIVED: Your husband may fear your disapproval of his relationships — however platonic they may be — with these younger women. What makes people of both genders sneak, by the way, is usually a sense of guilt.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, my 33-year-old son, his girlfriend and their 4-year-old son all live with me. They are expecting their second child. I own the home and pay all

the bills (utilities, phone, food, etc.). The problem is, my kids don’t like my boyfriend. His grandkids call me Grandma, so I would like my grandkids to call him Grandpa. My son and his girlfriend won’t allow their son to do it. They insist on calling him by his first name.

I asked for a compromise and to call him Uncle. They refuse and say he didn’t “earn” that name. I said it’s just teaching the children to respect their elders. When I grew up and when I raised my son, we called older people Auntie and Uncle. I’m not sure what to do because we all live in the same house, and I would like all of us to get along.

— WISHING FOR RESPECT IN HAWAII

DEAR WISHING: You may have taught your son to respect his elders when he was growing up, but it appears he has had a serious memory lapse. Shame on him.

Because you foot all of the bills for the roof over his and his family’s heads as well as the food in their mouths, remind him that you are the head of that household, and you will not have anyone with whom you are involved disrespected. As it stands, you and your boyfriend are being disrespected, so as head of the household, please assert yourself.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Partly cloudy	Times of sun and clouds	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Showers possible
Baker City	25	45 24	50 29	51 32	49 29
Comfort Index™	2	3	5	5	4
La Grande	31	47 28	50 36	49 37	50 34
Comfort Index™	3	3	5	5	4
Enterprise	27	50 24	51 33	52 35	47 35
Comfort Index™	5	7	8	7	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		SUNDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES			
High Sunday	40°	39°	40°
Low Sunday	17°	28°	22°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	Trace
Month to date	0.58	3.99	7.62
Normal month to date	0.58	1.14	2.33
Year to date	0.95	5.03	11.93
Normal year to date	1.38	2.77	5.50

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	3.1
Evapotranspiration	0.08

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)	
Phillips Reservoir	10% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	52% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	51% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	54% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	41% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	99% of capacity

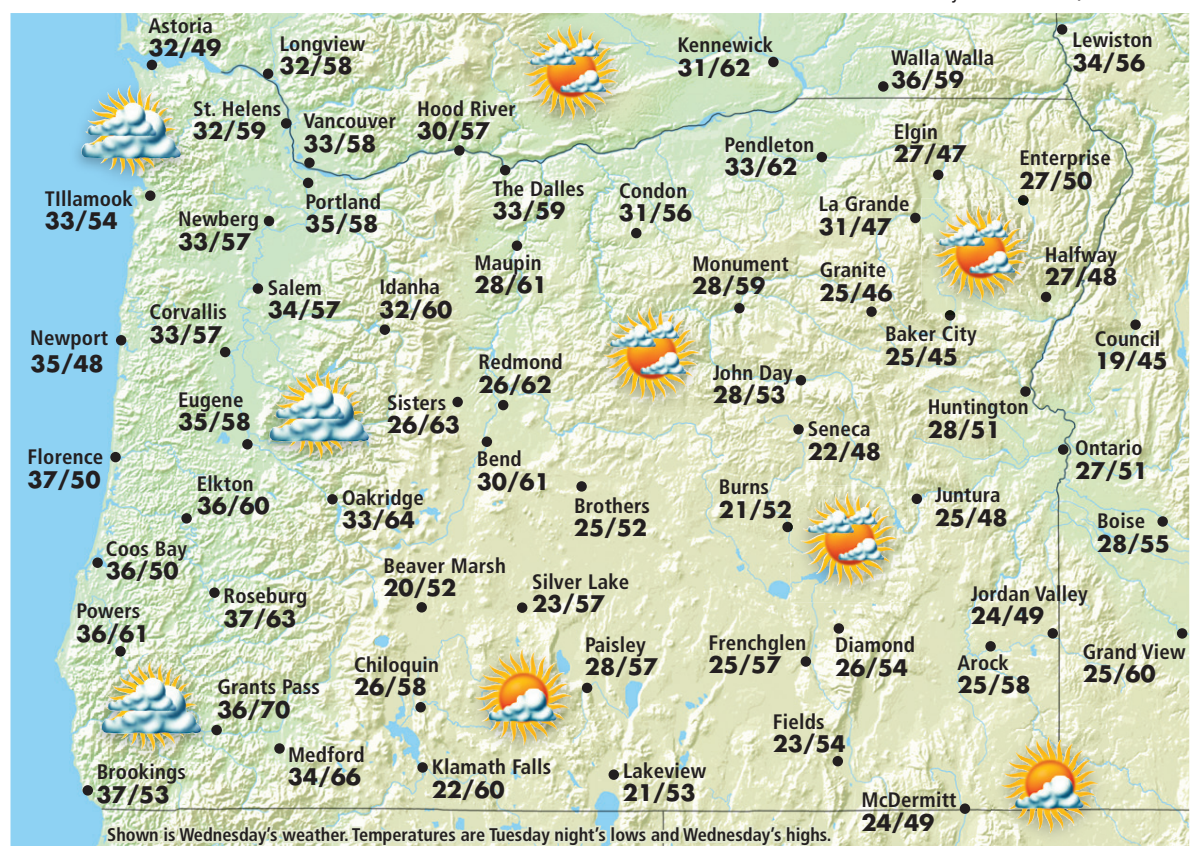
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	2180 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	59 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	25 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	222 cfs
Minam River at Minam	174 cfs
Powder River near Richland	80 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY	
Record high temperatures were set across the East on March 2, 1991. Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa., rose to 74 and 70 degrees, respectively. Albany, N.Y., reached 65, and Charleston, W.Va., jumped to 81 degrees.	

SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	6:29 a.m.
Sunset	5:41 p.m.
Moonrise	10:10 p.m.
Moonset	8:28 a.m.

MOON PHASES	
Last	Mar 5
New	Mar 13
First	Mar 21
Full	Mar 28

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY	
City	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	49/36/pc	Lewiston	56/34/pc
Bend	61/30/s	Longview	58/33/pc
Boise	55/30/s	Meacham	46/26/pc
Brookings	53/39/s	Medford	66/33/s
Burns	52/23/s	Newport	48/38/pc
Coos Bay	50/35/pc	Olympia	55/34/pc
Corvallis	57/33/pc	Ontario	51/28/pc
Council	45/22/s	Pasco	58/31/s
Eugene	47/25/pc	Pendleton	62/32/s
Hermiston	58/36/pc	Portland	58/37/pc
Hood River	65/33/s	Powers	61/36/pc
Imnaha	52/28/pc	Redmond	62/28/s
John Day	53/27/pc	Roseburg	63/37/pc
Joseph	49/27/pc	Salem	57/35/pc
Kennewick	62/32/s	Spokane	53/29/pc
Klamath Falls	60/23/s	The Dalles	55/35/pc
Lakeview	53/24/s	Ukiah	52/24/pc
		Walla Walla	59/35/pc

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