

Pandemic marriage's first year leaves wife dreading a second



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I got married during the pandemic in a short ceremony. Our first year of marriage has been less a honeymoon than a nightmare. He tends to be hot-headed. He fights dirty with name-calling, which he had occasionally done previously, but since we've been living together, it happens more often.

We are trying marriage counseling, but all of his temper tantrums and antics have made me see him in a different, negative light. He's now talking about growing our family. He can be very sweet and thoughtful, but I don't even know if I still like him at this point.

I'm also wondering if I'm just better alone because I like my space and time to myself. Maybe I'm settling with the current situation when there could be someone better out there. I know the grass isn't always greener on the other side. Is this something I need to give some time to see how it plays out, or should

I end it, the sooner the better? — **HONEYMOON-LESS IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR HONEYMOON-LESS: The pandemic has stressed many marriages, but with the quarantines relaxing there should be less pressure and confinement. Has it helped? Whether your hot-tempered husband is capable of changing his behavior is something that may be revealed during the counseling.

You didn't mention how long the two of you have been seeing a therapist, but if it has been more than six months with no improvement, it's fair to assume he isn't likely to change, and the marriage should end. In the meantime, use the most powerful form of birth control you possibly can so you don't find yourself pregnant and trapped in a marriage from which you cannot escape.

DEAR ABBY: My mom is in a home for dementia patients, and Dad was living in their big house by himself. He couldn't sell it until everything was settled with my mom. Because he was very lonely, I decided to let him move in with me. We agreed he would pay \$320 a month. I needed the money and thought it was fair. My roommate pays \$400 a month, but I was OK

with Dad paying less.

When my sister found out, she was very upset that I was charging Dad. She had him move out that day, so now he sleeps at my brother's and spends most of the day at his house.

When I turned 18 and lived at home I paid rent, so I saw nothing wrong with it. Now I am an out-cast. No one talks to me except my dad, by phone. I am very depressed about this and feel suicidal. I suffer from anxiety and depression, see a therapist and have been on meds for years. Am I wrong, and how do I fix this? — **GOOD SON IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR GOOD SON: If you haven't done so already, talk about this with your therapist. It is very important that he or she knows you are having suicidal thoughts and that they persist. You did nothing "wrong." Your father agreed to the arrangement, and he should have made that clear to your sister. She was wrong to interfere, and she seems to wield a disproportionate amount of power in your family. I can't fix that and neither can you, so you will have to find ways of coping not only with your depression but also with her. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: My niece is getting married this spring, which has created a dilemma for my immediate family. When the save-the-date cards went out, she addressed them only to the women in the family. We thought it was a mistake at first, but now the invitations have arrived, and they are also addressed to the women only.

My husband and my son (her first cousin) feel slighted. My son's wife was invited, but she doesn't know the bride at all. It seems the bride has a limited number of guests she can invite for the venue. She also has a large number of friends and the groom's family attending.

Out of respect for my son and my husband — and a son-in-law who was also excluded — we all will respond that we will not attend. I feel terrible not being able to see my niece walk down the aisle, but I'm not used to my spouse being ignored. Am I doing the right thing? — **PUZZLED IN FLORIDA**

DEAR PUZZLED: Before you refuse the wedding invitation, call your niece and ask if she is intentionally excluding the men. Because women make most of the social arrangements, she may not have realized that each guest's name must appear on the invitation. Rather than

an attempt to exclude family members because their chromosomes are not the same as hers, this may simply have been an etiquette boo-boo.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 35 years and have a recurring problem with no solution in sight. My wife sets frozen meat on the counter to thaw. She says she can't count on taking it in the fridge because it takes too long and interferes with her meal planning. Her mother has always done it this way, and no one has ever gotten sick. I try talking to her but it only ends up in a fight. Any suggestions would be appreciated. — **RISKY IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR RISKY: The Food and Drug Administration has issued guidelines about food preparation because people have gotten very sick when it wasn't done properly. Over the last 10 or 15 years, conditions in some of our slaughterhouses and agricultural operations have deteriorated, and consumers have died because of it. Whether you can convince your wife to change her ways, I can't predict. But you might be doing her a favor if you visit fda.gov and print out some information for her and your mother-in-law. Better to be safe than sorry.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Rain and drizzle	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy
Baker City	21	32 16	33 20	34 23	33 18
Comfort Index™	0	0	2	1	0
La Grande	31	39 28	39 25	39 22	36 24
Comfort Index™	0	1	1	3	3
Enterprise	29	44 30	40 22	40 20	35 26
Comfort Index™	3	4	4	4	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			
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Sunday	32°	38°	39°
Low Sunday	8°	30°	15°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.27	0.82	2.77
Normal month to date	0.22	0.53	1.01
Year to date	0.27	0.82	2.77
Normal year to date	0.22	0.53	1.01

SUNDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 87°	Weslaco, Texas	
	Low: -24°	Crosby, N.D.	
	Wettest: 2.06"	Clarksville, Tenn.	
OREGON	High: 66°	Brookings	
	Low: 8°	Baker City	
	Wettest: none		

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	45%		
Afternoon wind	5 at 8 to 16 mph		
Hours of sunshine	0.5		
Evapotranspiration	0.06		
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)			
Phillips Reservoir	1% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	23% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	18% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	22% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	17% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	22% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	1770 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	14 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	359 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	217 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	46 cfs		

OFFER ENDS JANUARY 17!

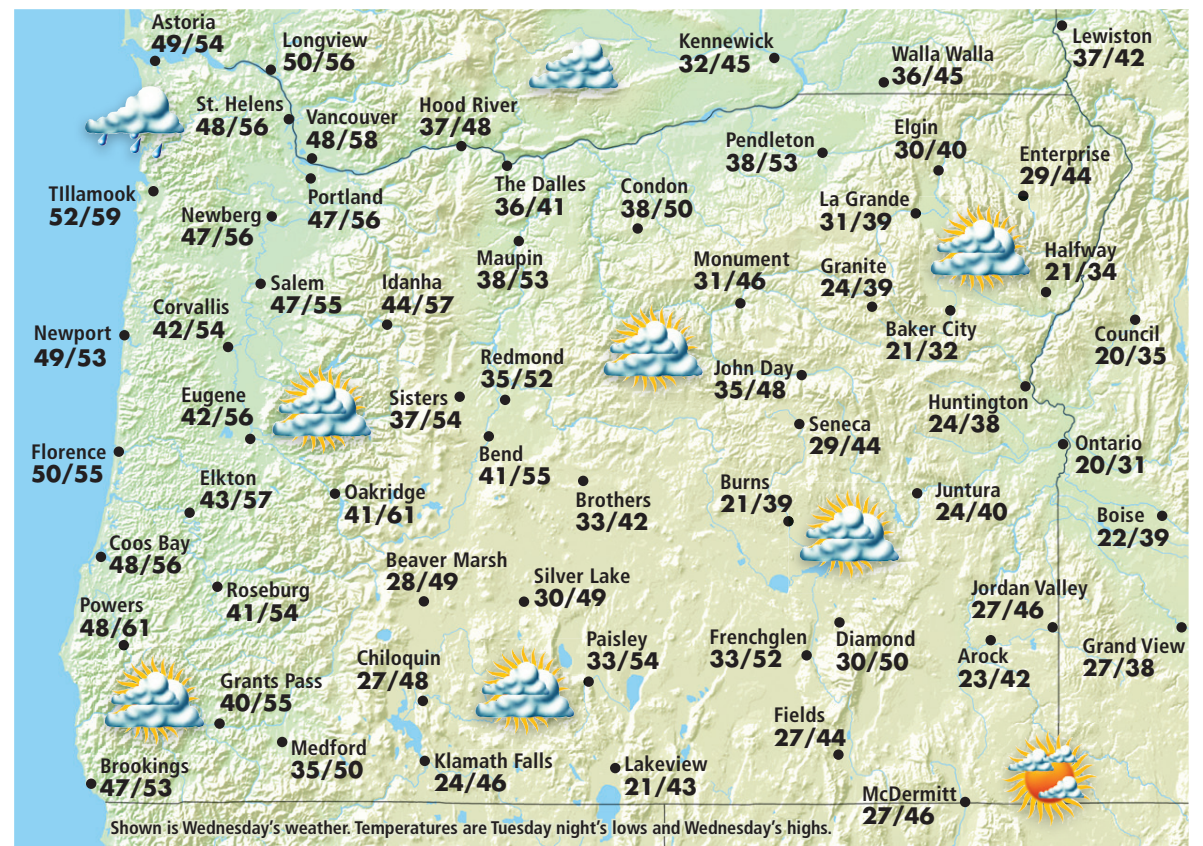
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AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES			
City	WED. HI/LO/W	THU. HI/LO/W	City
Astoria	54/46/r	50/42/r	Lewiston
Bend	55/38/c	47/31/sn	Longview
Boise	39/21/pc	37/25/pc	Meacham
Brookings	53/47/c	54/43/r	Medford
Burns	39/21/c	41/18/pc	Newport
Coos Bay	56/49/c	52/40/r	Olympia
Corvallis	54/41/c	52/40/r	Ontario
Council	35/21/pc	36/20/pc	Pasco
Elgin	40/21/c	38/25/c	Pendleton
Eugene	56/42/c	53/41/r	Portland
Hermiston	48/31/c	50/27/c	Powers
Hood River	48/38/c	48/36/r	Redmond
Imnaha	45/37/c	46/34/pc	Roseburg
John Day	48/34/c	43/33/pc	Salem
Joseph	44/34/c	43/23/pc	Spokane
Kennewick	45/30/c	45/29/pc	The Dalles
Klamath Falls	46/26/c	45/21/pc	Ukiah
Lakeview	43/21/c	42/19/pc	Walla Walla
			45/33/c

RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY			
ANTHONY LAKES	Mostly cloudy	35 27	PHILLIPS LAKE
			Mainly cloudy
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly cloudy	39 32	BROWNLEE RES.
			Mostly cloudy
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Mostly cloudy	33 25	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
			Cloudy
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly cloudy	44 34	MCKAY RESERVOIR
			Cloudy
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Mostly cloudy	32 16	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
			Mostly cloudy

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