

# Mom's wild stories cause her grandchildren distress

**DEAR ABBY:** My mother insists on telling my three youngest children that my husband is not their father. The oldest girl is the spitting image of him, and she's upset about it. Mom also calls me terrible names. She keeps saying it will add years to my life if I divorce him and makes appointments with divorce lawyers "for" me, which I am charged for. My husband and I have a limited income and can't move away because our jobs are here. How can I convince our kids my husband is their father?



**DEAR ABBY**

was grossed out seeing him with those filthy nails type on my computer keys. Should I have said something to him or his supervisor? How can they allow someone with his hygiene problem to be in a position that requires contact with the public?

— GROSSED OUT IN OHIO

**DEAR GROSSED OUT:** A quiet word with the supervisor would have been the way to handle it. And while you were at the store, you could have asked for sanitary wipes to clean your keyboard. (They probably had some behind the counter.) Using a soft tissue dipped in alcohol once you returned home would also kill germs, as long as you're careful the tissue isn't so saturated that liquid drips beneath the keys.

**DEAR ABBY:** You've published letters from wives complaining about their husbands. You should know that there are also husbands who put up with verbally abusive wives.

I make close to a six-figure salary, but my wife isn't satisfied. She complains because many of our friends and neighbors make more.

My wife works, but believes she should spend all she earns on herself. Would it hurt her to pay for some of our children's school clothes or contribute to their school tuition, instead of me selling company stock?

She's forgotten what intimacy is. I send her flowers and take her to nice places for dinner. I don't even get a goodnight kiss.

I work 10 to 12 hours a day and still manage to wash the clothes, do the dishes and put everything away. She complains she doesn't have enough help around the house.

I buy her thoughtful presents. She gives me gift certificates from video stores.

What my wife doesn't know is that when the kids are out of college, this provider will be history!

— IDEAL HUSBAND IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR IDEAL:** Why keep it a secret? If you tell your wife now, it's possible the two of you can save your relationship with marriage counseling. A mediator might be able to convince her to make a drastic attitude adjustment. It's worth a try. If it doesn't work, you'll be free sooner rather than later.

— TRYING TO PROVE IT

**DEAR TRYING:** A way to do that would be to explain to your children that your mother has severe emotional problems and isn't in her right mind when she says those things. (From what you have written, it appears to be true.) You do not have to move away to distance yourself from this toxic, troubled woman. Stop communicating with her. Block her phone number, if you must, and do not allow her to have contact with any members of your family unless and until she regains her senses and apologizes to all of you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I belong to a women's golfing group. The mission of the club is to play golf and have fun. We have tournaments, prizes, and awards are given for the best scores.

The problem: Several of the ladies are "allergic" to counting their scores correctly. We have given them counting beads to help them "remember" their score. They have played with board members who asked them to count their scores out loud each time they hit the ball and to state their scores after the last putt. There have also been conversations with the golf pro about the importance of keeping accurate scores. Yet, the inaccurate counting persists and denial reigns. Members are upset because these ladies often "win" tournaments. What to do?

— PROUD OF MY HIGH HANDICAP

**DEAR PROUD:** You might be able to curb the cheating if you suggest club members swap scorecards and keep score for each other. However, if that doesn't do the trick, stop playing with those who cheat.

**DEAR ABBY:** Yesterday, I took my computer to an electronics store to be fixed. The tech who helped me had a ton of dirt under his nails. I

# Missed deadlines cost millions in potential disaster aid

By David A. Lieb  
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — As the floodwaters recede and the recovery begins, communities swamped by Hurricane Florence soon will be facing deadlines to document the billions of dollars in damage it caused if they want to be reimbursed by the federal government.

A missed deadline could be costly, even if it's not directly the fault of the affected community, according to an Associated Press analysis of recent appeals decided by top officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The AP found that tardiness is one of the most common reasons FEMA headquarters has denied appeals from cities, school districts and other public entities, accounting for well over \$100 million in lost appeals over the past 12 months alone. FEMA's strict enforcement of deadlines means it hasn't even considered the merits of some appeals.

As it has focused on punctuality, FEMA denied about 4-of-every-5 funding appeals that rose to its headquarters over the past couple years, up from a two-thirds denial rate over the prior decade, according to the AP's analysis.

"We have been increasingly looking to apply the timeframes for the appeals," said FEMA's deputy director for public assistance, Tod Wells. "The objective is to establish a sound and reliable process," so communities hit by disasters such as Hurricane Florence can know what to expect.

Some on the losing end say another factor is in play — saving money.

"We recognize that in the last year FEMA has made many improvements to its management of appeals and created transparency in the process, and that a large reason for strict adherence to timeframes is to drive down the costs of disasters," said Patrick Sheehan, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA rejected \$11 million for a Nashville drinking water treatment plant flooded in 2010. The agency said it received the appeal years too late, though Sheehan contends it was submitted on time.

The recent appeal denials for missed deadlines include a total of \$67 million sought by the tornado-ravaged schools of Joplin, Missouri, and \$3.3 million that FEMA ordered be repaid by the Miami suburb of Pembroke Pines for the cleanup of Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

"We followed to the T all the FEMA requirements, and I can tell you they're very particular about documentation and recording," said Pembroke Pines City Manager Charles Dodge. "To the best of my knowledge, that wasn't even looked at. It was just the question of Hey, we didn't get the form on time. Sorry folks, you're out. Pay us back."

FEMA relies on states to act as a go-between on such claims.

When FEMA reduced the city's previously approved aid in 2012, Pembroke Pines submitted an appeal within the required 60 days to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. But the state agency, which had another 60 days to forward it to FEMA, apparently failed to do so.

FEMA says it didn't receive the appeals package until 2014. It denied the city's final appeal in August.

Pembroke Pines wasn't the only local Florida entity out of luck.

Since June 2017, FEMA's regional and national administrators have denied 64 Florida appeals because of missed deadlines years earlier, the state said. The Florida agency said FEMA has revoked nearly one-fourth of the \$6.6 billion of public assistance it originally allotted for disasters that struck the state between 2004 and 2014.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Wes Maul acknowledges the agency had poor case management, a problem he is trying to change.

"What has occurred over the past few decades is inexcusable," said Maul, who has overseen a staff shake-up since joining the agency as chief of staff in 2016.

The AP found that the apparent failure of state agencies to forward appeals in time to meet FEMA deadlines also contributed to denials of contested funding in Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee and Texas during the past year.

Since the AP first reported last year about FEMA's backlog of disaster aid appeals, the agency has improved the pace of its decision-making.

In 2016, just 12 percent of the decisions issued by FEMA headquarters were made within the 90 days allotted by law to decide appeals or request additional information. That rose to 25 percent last year and around 50 percent so far this year.

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# weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	A couple of showers	Cloudy with a few showers	Partly sunny	Rain and drizzle	A chance of rain
<b>Baker City</b>	37	56 32	60 26	59 38	57 33
Comfort Index™	5	0	5	5	2
<b>La Grande</b>	42	51 35	59 33	59 43	51 38
Comfort Index™	3	0	5	1	2
<b>Enterprise</b>	40	49 35	55 30	56 39	50 36
Comfort Index™	5	0	5	7	2

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	59°	59°	58°
Low Thursday	33°	35°	41°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.01	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.01	Trace
Normal month to date	0.07	0.12	0.14
Year to date	4.75	10.53	21.04
Normal year to date	7.69	11.66	15.99

## THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 99°	Jasper, Ala.
Low: 12°	Ashley, N.D.
Wettest: 3.42"	Lexington, Ky.
OREGON	
High: 70°	Medford
Low: 26°	Meacham
Wettest: 0.51"	Rome

## WEATHER HISTORY

The highest daily total rainfall ever for Canada occurred on Oct. 6, 1967, at Udulelet Brynnor Mines, measuring 19.61 inches.

## SUN & MOON

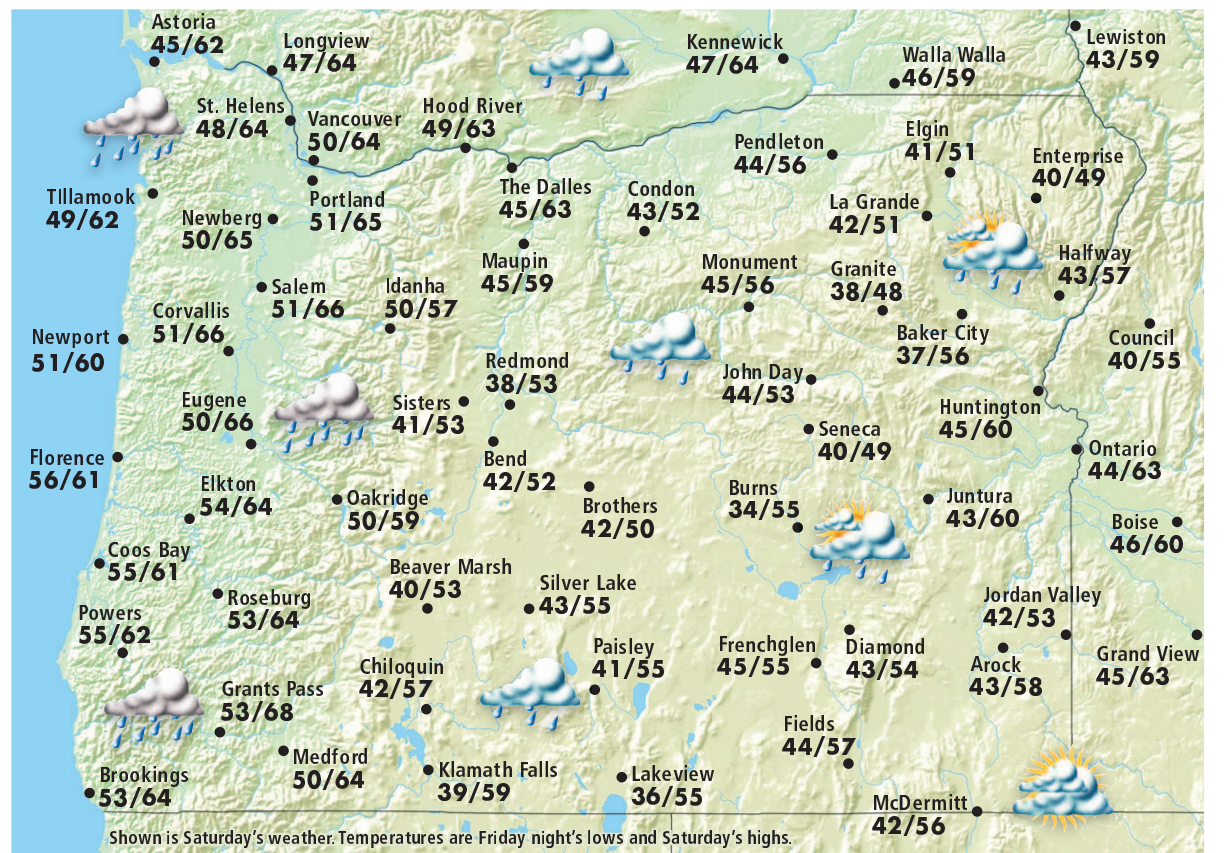
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	6:55 a.m.	6:57 a.m.
Sunset	6:25 p.m.	6:24 p.m.
Moonrise	2:27 a.m.	3:42 a.m.
Moonset	5:02 p.m.	5:36 p.m.

## MOON PHASES



## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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## REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W	City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W
Astoria	62/45/pc	60/48/sh	Lewiston	59/38/sh	64/40/pc
Bend	52/32/sh	59/35/pc	Longview	64/43/pc	59/48/c
Boise	60/40/sh	63/37/pc	Meacham	48/32/sh	56/31/pc
Brookings	64/53/pc	68/51/c	Medford	64/46/sh	67/43/pc
Burns	55/26/sh	58/23/pc	Newport	60/45/pc	59/48/c
Coos Bay	61/46/pc	61/50/c	Olympia	62/38/pc	59/45/sh
Corvallis	66/39/pc	64/43/c	Ontario	63/42/c	66/35/pc
Council	55/37/sh	60/32/pc	Pasco	64/34/sh	67/40/pc
Elgin	51/35/sh	59/33/pc	Pendleton	56/38/sh	62/40/pc
Eugene	66/39/pc	65/44/c	Portland	65/46/pc	62/50/c
Hermiston	62/38/sh	66/40/pc	Powers	62/45/pc	66/52/c
Hood River	63/42/sh	66/47/pc	Redmond	53/31/sh	61/31/pc
Imnaha	54/41/sh	60/39/pc	Roseburg	64/45/pc	67/47/c
John Day	53/34/sh	58/34/pc	Salem	66/41/pc	64/47/c
Joseph	49/35/sh	54/28/pc	Spokane	58/34/sh	61/40/pc
Jenken	64/38/sh	67/42/pc	The Dalles	63/40/sh	68/46/pc
Klamath Falls	59/32/pc	61/31/pc	Ukiah	48/31/sh	55/30/pc
Lakeview	55/30/sh	55/27/pc	Walla Walla	59/39/sh	64/43/pc

## RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	A bit of ice	34	28
PHILLIPS LAKE	A shower	52	38
MT. EMILY REC.	A shower	45	36
BROWNLEE RES.	Partly sunny	59	44
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A p.m. snow shower	41	33
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Rain and drizzle	51	38
WALLOWA LAKE	Becoming cloudy	54	39
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Rain and drizzle	59	44
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Clouding up	58	37
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Rain and drizzle	57	42



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