

# Divorcing mom is grateful for new man's friendship

**DEAR ABBY:** A year ago my 13-year marriage fell apart. My husband, "Rick," will be spending the next six years in prison. I am 32 and have two boys, ages 13 and 15.

The last year has been pretty tough for all of us. I've been learning how to be both mother and father to them. I am also heartbroken by what he did that landed him in prison. I have filed for divorce, and there will be no reconciliation.

I never thought I would be with another man. Rick is the only man I have ever been with. But over the last couple of months I have begun developing feelings for someone, or at least I think I have.

"Jason" is a great man. We attend the same church, and it's very important to me and my family that he's devoted to God like we are. Jason loves my kids, and my kids like him a lot, too. He has also taken the time to mentor my oldest son. Every time I see Jason I feel happier than I've been in a very long time. He is the polar opposite of Rick, and he has no idea of how strong my feelings are toward him.

Should I let Jason know what my feelings are? I'm confused. Could this just be me wanting companionship? I love being his friend and would like to continue to be. I don't want to ruin it by revealing my feelings if he doesn't feel the same. Also, I don't want to rush into anything. Please advise me.

— LONELY AND CONFUSED  
OUT WEST

**DEAR LONELY AND CONFUSED:** There is nothing wrong with wanting companionship, but the last thing you and your children need is for you to jump from the frying pan into the fire. You are still a married woman. Jason may be terrific — Heaven sent, even — but it's too soon to "declare" anything. The two of you are still getting to know each other, and love needs time to develop. Be patient and allow the relationship to evolve gradually in its own time.

**DEAR ABBY:** This is for delivery drivers or anyone making a delivery to your house that requires a signature or a real person

to receive the item (i.e., an Uber driver with food). I'm 61 and have very bad knees. I can't just jump up and run to the door. Today a driver knocked on my door and then, as I was trying to get out of my chair and walk to the door, he started punching the doorbell repeatedly.

People with arthritis, bad knees or many other conditions can't get there in an instant. Please give folks like us a minute to get to the door. Someone could fall while trying to rush and get hurt.  
— NOT FAST ENOUGH  
IN FLORIDA

**DEAR N.F.E.:** You make a good point. Delivery people sometimes become frustrated because they have many deliveries to make. A solution to your problem might be to post a small sign next to your doorbell that reads: Please be patient. I'll open the door in a minute!

P.S. For those who are inclined, "smart" doorbells are available for use with a cellphone that enable you to communicate with a delivery person at the door before you get there. Consider getting one.

**DEAR ABBY:** With the holidays here and family gathering to celebrate, some will be overnight guests. Although we have had pets here in the past, my wife and I are older now. Our home has been remodeled and we no longer have pets because we don't have time to properly maintain an animal. We also travel frequently and don't want to leave a pet in a kennel.

My point is, if people are guests during one of these gatherings, please check first to see if pets are welcome. I know some relatives may feel their pet is one of the family, but they need to consider it may be a burden for the homeowner.

Thanks for getting my message out, Abby.  
— "THE OLD GUY" IN WISCONSIN

**DEAR "OLD GUY":** Excuse me? What if the family members your message is intended for happen to miss reading my column? Because you want to ensure the message is received, the most effective method to do that would be to speak up and make your wishes known in advance — especially in a case like this one.

# States cite climate worries in push to stop US coal sales

By Matthew Brown  
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Four states that say burning coal will hurt their residents as it makes climate change worse are trying to stop the Trump administration from selling vast reserves of the fuel that are beneath public lands.

Attorneys for California, New Mexico, New York and Washington argue the coal sales have been shortchanging taxpayers because of low royalty rates and cause pollution that puts the climate and public health at risk.

The states were joined by conservation groups and Montana's Northern Cheyenne tribe in a lawsuit that seeks to revive a coal leasing moratorium imposed under President Barack Obama. The moratorium blocked new lease sales from federal lands that hold billions of tons of the fuel.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris is presiding over a Thursday hearing on whether the moratorium should be reinstated.

The Trump administration said in court filings that ending the moratorium last year was of critical importance to the economy. That claim comes despite the slow pace of lease sales in recent years and a precipitous drop in demand for the heavily polluting fuel.

U.S. lands in Western states including Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Colorado are a major source of coal for mining companies. There are 7.4 billion tons of the fuel in roughly 300 leases administered by the Bureau

of Land Management.

Morris, who was appointed by Obama, recently ruled in a separate case that the administration must consider reducing coal mining in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana to help combat climate change.

The judge has played the role of spoiler to Trump on another Obama administration policy reversal — the contentious Keystone XL oil sands pipeline from Canada. Trump approved the pipeline last year, but Morris blocked it temporarily in March. The judge said further environmental reviews were needed for the line to comply with federal laws.

Some of those same laws are at the center of the coal moratorium dispute.

The states and their allies want push to stop further leasing and resume a sweeping review of the program's environmental effects. Government attorneys and the National Mining Association say the review started under Obama was a voluntary step and the Trump administration is within its rights to end it.

"We view this as a legal issue and believe this is an open-and-shut case," said Conor Bernstein with the mining association, which has intervened in the case.

Growing concerns over climate change have put a spotlight on the once-obscure coal leasing program, which has gone largely unchanged and not been through a major environmental review since 1979.

Companies have mined about 4 billion tons of coal

from federal reserves in the past decade, contributing \$10 billion to federal and state coffers through royalties and other payments.

The Obama administration blocked the sale of new leases in 2016 out of concerns over climate-changing greenhouse gases from burning coal and to review royalty rates paid by mining companies for federal coal.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke withdrew the moratorium in March 2017. He said the Obama administration's environmental review would cost "many millions of dollars," and improvements to the program could be made without prolonged study.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said Zinke's actions fly in the face of a government report released last month that predicted dire consequences from climate change for the U.S. economy.

"He ignored the law in opening the door to expanded coal leasing without taking a hard look at the environmental consequences," Becerra said in a statement.

Federal officials and members of Congress have said for years that royalty rates were shortchanging taxpayers. Under Obama, officials began considering raising rates, but it was not done.

After the Trump administration ended the moratorium, Zinke appointed a committee to review royalty rates. Critics contend he has stacked the panel with industry-friendly representatives interested in maintaining the status quo.

# weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	A little evening snow	Times of clouds and sun	Mostly cloudy and breezy	Rain and drizzle	Showers around
Baker City	23	38 30	42 34	40 31	40 31
Comfort Index™	0	2	2	2	2
La Grande	28	41 36	43 38	43 36	44 39
Comfort Index™	1	2	1	0	1
Enterprise	25	39 32	43 35	41 34	43 37
Comfort Index™	2	2	3	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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	37°	40°	41°
Low Thursday	14°	33°	29°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	Trace	0.02
Month to date	0.17	0.21	1.28
Normal month to date	0.41	0.77	1.36
Year to date	5.41	13.78	27.75
Normal year to date	9.56	15.63	22.03

## THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	McAllen, Texas
High: 86°	
Low: -23°	Clayton Lake, Maine
Wettest: 4.06"	Little Rock, Ark.
OREGON	
High: 61°	Pendleton
Low: 8°	Burns
Wettest: 0.27"	Seaside

## WEATHER HISTORY

On Dec. 15, 1969, in Los Angeles, Calif., a chain-reaction car crash involved more than 100 vehicles on a 12-mile stretch of the fog-cloaked Santa Ana Freeway.

## SUN & MOON

	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	7:24 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
Sunset	4:10 p.m.	4:10 p.m.
Moonrise	12:10 p.m.	12:35 p.m.
Moonset	11:20 p.m.	none

## MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29	Jan 5

## AGRICULTURAL INFO.

### HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY

Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 8 to 16 mph
Hours of sunshine	2.3
Evapotranspiration	0.05

### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)

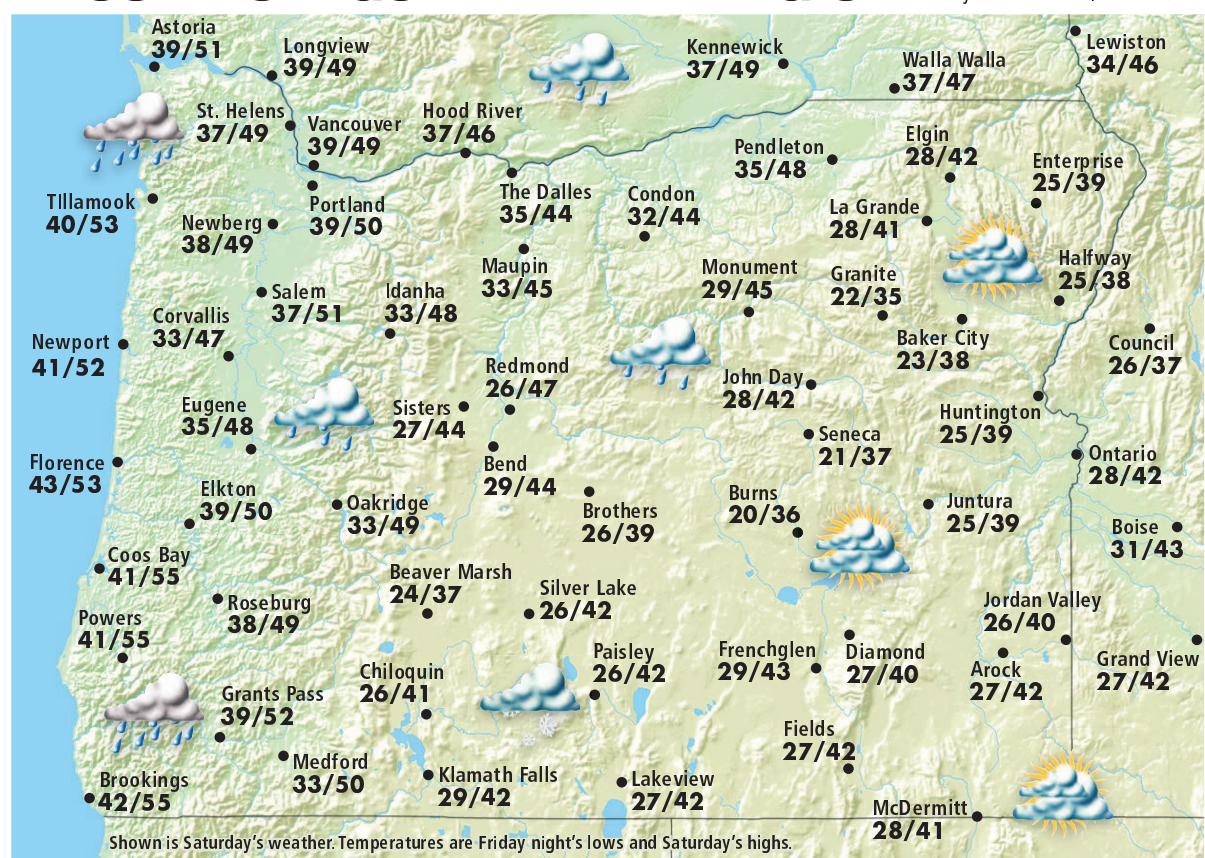
Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	20% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	34% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	12% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	15% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	33% of capacity

### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	788 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	7 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	125 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	43 cfs

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018



## REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	51/46/c	53/45/r	Lewiston	46/34/pc	50/42/c
Bend	44/37/pc	49/33/r	Longview	49/44/c	51/46/r
Boise	43/29/pc	45/35/pc	Meacham	40/34/pc	42/37/c
Brookings	55/50/c	58/44/r	Medford	50/39/c	55/37/r
Burns	36/25/pc	39/28/c	Newport	52/47/c	55/43/r
Coos Bay	55/49/c	56/45/r	Olympia	47/42/c	51/43/r
Corvallis	47/42/c	52/42/r	Ontario	42/29/pc	45/34/c
Council	37/26/pc	40/32/c	Pasco	48/36/pc	44/39/sh
Elgin	42/35/pc	44/38/c	Pendleton	48/39/pc	48/42/c
Eugene	48/44/c	53/43/r	Portland	50/45/c	51/45/r
Hermiston	50/38/pc	47/41/sh	Powers	55/49/c	57/44/r
Hood River	46/40/pc	46/41/sn	Redmond	47/37/pc	53/34/r
Imnaha	45/38/pc	49/42/c	Roseburg	49/46/c	53/42/r
John Day	42/38/pc	45/38/c	Salem	51/44/c	53/45/r
Joseph	37/32/pc	42/34/c	Spokane	37/30/pc	42/38/c
Kennewick	49/38/pc	46/40/sh	The Dalles	44/37/pc	44/40/sh
Klamath Falls	42/37/pc	46/31/sn	Ukiah	41/33/pc	44/36/c
Lakeview	42/31/c	44/29/c	Walla Walla	47/40/pc	49/45/sh

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

## RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

Location	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
ANTHONY LAKES	31 13	Very windy
PHILLIPS LAKE	34 21	Mostly cloudy
MT. EMILY REC.	36 24	Mostly cloudy
BROWNLEE RES.	42 28	Mostly cloudy
EAGLE CAP WILD.	28 17	Mostly cloudy
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	38 23	Mostly cloudy
WALLOWA LAKE	41 25	Mostly cloudy
MCKAY RESERVOIR	52 34	Windy
THIEF VALLEY RES.	37 23	Mostly cloudy
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	40 28	Mostly cloudy

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