

Man's talk of suicide keeps woman in their relationship

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, after five years of marriage, I divorced my ex-husband, "Taylor." We agreed to separate because I believed I had fallen out of love with him. We have remained friendly and communicate often.

Since the divorce, I have struggled with feelings of guilt and the creeping suspicion that I have made a mistake. I think I am still in love with him. Taylor desperately wants us to get remarried, and lately I have been considering it. However, I have another issue to consider.



DEAR ABBY

For the past few months, I have been seeing another man, "Jacob." Although he is sweet and affectionate, Jacob is needy, clingy and struggles with depression and anxiety. He often expresses suicidal thoughts over problems in his life, including the thought of me leaving him. He is in therapy, but it doesn't seem to be helping.

I am terrified of breaking up with him to reconcile with my ex-husband because I honestly believe Jacob would kill himself, and I could not live with that. Any advice would be appreciated.

— IN A HARD SPOT IN ALABAMA

DEAR HARD SPOT: Jacob is in therapy. Write a letter to his therapist and explain your concerns. That way the therapist will understand in advance that his/her patient may be heading for a rough patch. Regardless of whether Jacob is serious about killing himself should you end the relationship, for your own sake, you must not allow yourself to become a prisoner of his illness. That dynamic is unhealthy for you.

I must caution you, however, not to allow yourself to be pressured into reconciling with your ex unless both of you have premarital counseling so you won't fall back into the pattern that destroyed your marriage. Whether it was lack of communication, boredom, a dull sex life — you both must understand where it went off track and take steps to correct it before remarrying.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are close friends with another couple we love dearly. Lately the wife has been concerned about her husband's continued weight gain. She makes comments when we are all out to dinner about what he wants to order and insists they share

a meal or that he choose something lighter.

I know she's concerned about diabetes and heart disease and all the other ills obesity can bring, but I don't think this is helping. In fact, I think it's pushing him to want to eat more. How can we as friends help them to overcome this? For the record, he now weighs more than 300 pounds

— BEST FRIENDS IN TEXAS

DEAR FRIENDS: Your friend's husband is dangerously overweight. She may be panicking at the reality that the load he's carrying could shorten their marriage. What she doesn't realize is that the motivation for him to deal with his weight problem has to come from him, not her.

Rather than second guess what he's eating when you are all out to dinner, she should encourage him to talk with his doctor and a nutritionist about what he needs to do to get healthy. Please tell her that. It won't happen overnight, and she should expect him to fall off the wagon sometimes. But with determination, it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please settle a disagreement I'm having with my mother-in-law? We can't agree on the definition of New Year's Eve. If the date is Dec. 31, 2018, is it New Year's Eve 2018 or 2019?

— IN A QUANDARY IN WEST PALM BEACH

DEAR IN A QUANDARY: The Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Wordfinder defines "eve" as: "1. the evening or day before a church festival or any date or event (Christmas Eve; the eve of the funeral); 2. the time before anything (the eve of the election)."

Therefore, Dec. 31, 2018, is New Year's Eve 2018. New Year's Eve 2019 will be Dec. 31 of next year.

DEAR READERS: Well, 2018 is on the brink of being over! Out with the old, in with the new. Please accept my heartfelt good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019. And, as I caution every year, if you are out partying to ring in the new year, please make appropriate transportation arrangements and be safe!

— LOVE, ABBY

Harnessing natural gas to harvest water from the air might solve 2 big problems

By Vaibhav Bahadur

University of Texas at Austin

Between 6 and 18 million gallons of freshwater hover above every square mile of land, not counting droplets trapped in clouds. Scientists realized this centuries ago but they have never quite figured out how to bring the water down to earth. The effort required to condense it would consume such vast quantities of energy that it has always appeared to make any effort to capture and use this water uneconomical.

But while studying this topic, two of my University of Texas at Austin colleagues and I came up with a concept that might just work: that of using the natural gas that is otherwise flared from oilfields to harvest atmospheric moisture.

We haven't given it a try yet but we believe it has the potential to be practical and economically viable, especially as water gets scarcer and more expensive. What's more, the latest research about the extent of natural gas methane leaks and greenhouse gas emissions underscore why it is important to give this technology a shot.

Let there be water

Here's how the process would work. Excess gas, that would otherwise go to waste, could power an engine of a big refrigeration unit. This industrial-scale refrigerator would swallow lots of humid air, condensing this moisture into water much like how the air conditioning systems operate in office and residential buildings.

The amount of water that

could be collected would depend on the quantity of natural gas available, the weather and the refrigeration system's efficiency. We project that for every cubic meter of gas, this process will capture up to 2.3 gallons of water.

Water for oil

There are many uses for this water, which we believe would be fit for human consumption, including food processing, mining and other industries. I see many benefits to this approach to oil production, which is very water-intensive.

Drilling for oil and natural gas with hydraulic fracturing, a technique commonly called fracking, takes lots of water. On average, one well requires 2.5 million gallons of it, which is enough to fill four Olympic-sized swimming pools. And there are more than a million of these wells in the U.S. alone.

Yet about half of the nation's wells are in parched areas in Texas and other southern states.

And there are some oil patches, including the Eagle Ford in Texas, where water scarcity is making it challenging to produce oil.

Drilling sites are often remote, meaning frackers must haul water to wellpads in hundreds of trucks that have to travel 50 miles or more.

I have calculated that tapping excess gas to capture water would provide a fifth of the water used in fracking the parched Eagle Ford Shale region in South Texas.

A waste of energy

Worldwide, about 4 percent

of the natural gas extracted from oil and gas fields gets flared, and this practice is common in the U.S. Add all this up, and it paints a disturbing picture of global water and environmental pollution.

And we cannot see any environmental downsides to giving it a try.

It has to be hot

This technique would not work in many cold and dry places. It would work best in areas that are hot and humid, including Texas and other southern states in the U.S., Mexico, Venezuela, Middle East and Africa year-round. And it might be viable for about half the year in cooler gas-producing oil patches like North Dakota's Bakken Formation.

Interestingly, many regions with ample natural gas reserves have perpetual water scarcity and hot, humid climates. Examples include countries in the Middle East and Africa, the American Southwest, Mexico and Venezuela.

There have been efforts to stop wasting the natural gas produced as a byproduct of oil drilling before. But when oil producers have sought to capture and sell the fuel, rather than flare it, they have mostly failed because they have been economically unviable.

I believe that this new approach would work better than mandating or encouraging the capturing of natural gas for other uses because it is easier to pull off. It also solves a separate problem at a time when water is becoming an increasingly valuable and scarce commodity.

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weather

TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Patchy clouds and cold	Mostly cloudy	Times of sun and clouds	Cloudy	Times of clouds and sun
Baker City 8 Comfort Index™ 0	28 10 1	28 20 0	31 24 0	35 22 1
La Grande 12 Comfort Index™ 2	30 19 2	33 25 0	35 30 0	39 26 2
Enterprise 9 Comfort Index™ 2	29 17 2	32 23 1	36 27 1	37 23 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 Sunday	38°	38°	38°
Low Sunday	22°	26°	24°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.04	0.18	0.51
Month to date	0.64	2.19	4.77
Normal month to date	0.95	1.61	2.97
Year to date	5.88	15.76	31.24
Normal year to date	10.10	16.47	23.64

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 87°	Low: -24°	Wettest: 2.46"
	Naples, Fla.	Antero Reservoir Colo.	Corinth, Miss.
OREGON	High: 54°	Low: 16°	Wettest: 0.85"
	Hermiston	Burns	Meacham

WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 1, 1864, an arctic blast caused poorly clothed Civil War soldiers and their prisoners much suffering in Louisville, Ky. The temperature dropped from 47 to 19 below zero in just 21 hours.

SUN & MOON

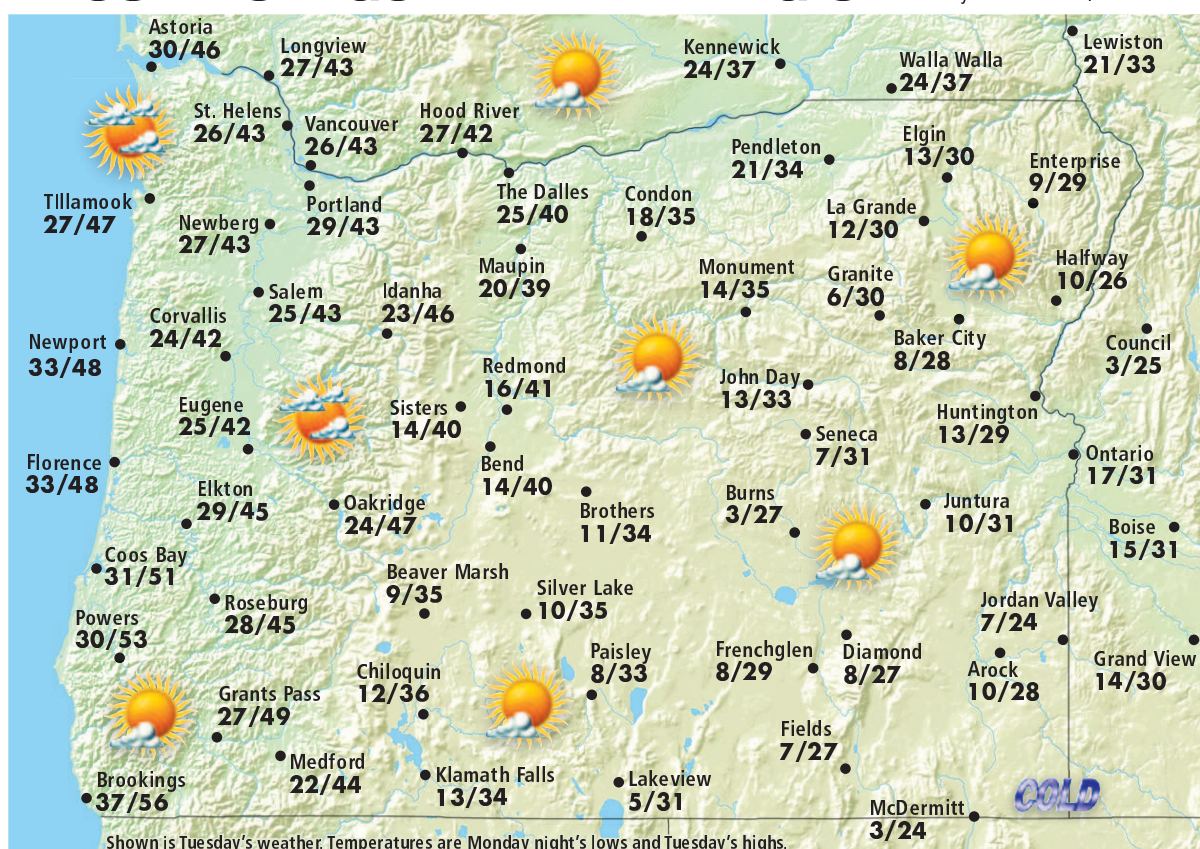
	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	7:32 a.m.	7:32 a.m.
Sunset	4:19 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
Moonrise	2:04 a.m.	3:11 a.m.
Moonset	1:09 p.m.	1:39 p.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/LO/W	WED. HI/LO/W	City	TUE. HI/LO/W	WED. HI/LO/W
Astoria	46/31/pc	49/43/r	Lewiston	33/23/c	38/33/pc
Bend	40/23/pc	45/31/pc	Longview	43/29/pc	44/41/r
Boise	31/17/pc	32/23/pc	Meacham	30/18/c	33/26/pc
Brookings	56/37/pc	53/43/s	Medford	44/24/pc	46/29/s
Burns	27/9/pc	31/12/pc	Newport	48/35/pc	50/44/pc
Coos Bay	51/33/pc	52/44/pc	Olympia	40/27/c	43/38/r
Corvallis	42/24/pc	46/37/pc	Ontario	31/18/c	33/21/pc
Council	25/9/c	26/14/pc	Pasco	37/23/c	37/30/pc
Elgin	30/17/c	33/26/pc	Pendleton	34/23/c	39/32/pc
Eugene	42/26/pc	46/36/pc	Portland	43/29/pc	45/41/pc
Hermiston	38/24/c	38/31/pc	Powers	53/35/pc	55/41/s
Hood River	42/27/c	44/37/pc	Redmond	41/23/pc	46/31/pc
Imnaha	35/20/c	39/28/pc	Roseburg	45/29/pc	46/38/s
John Day	33/21/c	39/26/pc	Salem	43/26/pc	46/39/pc
Joseph	28/17/c	32/22/pc	Spokane	28/19/c	32/28/pc
Kennwick	37/23/c	37/30/pc	The Dalles	40/25/c	41/33/pc
Klamath Falls	34/15/pc	40/25/s	Ukiah	32/17/c	37/26/pc
Lakeview	31/11/pc	37/18/s	Walla Walla	37/26/c	40/35/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 TUESDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Sunshine; frigid	Mostly sunny
12 2	28 6
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Cold with sunshine	Mostly sunny
22 11	34 10
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Mostly sunny; cold	Sunshine; chilly
17 0	24 7
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Mostly sunny; cold	Mostly sunny
27 8	34 19
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
31 8	31 12

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