

As girlfriend becomes more distant, woman feels despair

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend and I have lived together off and on for three years. We met at a lesbian bar in Los Angeles, and it was love at first sight for me.

I suspect she has been seeing another woman. She has changed her dress style and even her cologne. When I confront her, begging her to tell me if she's been cheating, she laughs it off. We don't communicate well anymore, and she's sleeping in another room now.

I have cared for her for so long. We were going to be married. Now I feel she doesn't love me anymore. I have tried following her, but she disappears and sometimes doesn't come home for days. I haven't slept or eaten in weeks.

I love her so much. If she doesn't come back to me, I've had thoughts of suicide. I can't afford a shrink. I hope you can help.

— FREAKED OUT & CLUELESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FREAKED OUT: What's happening is painful, but you don't need a "shrink" to help you figure this out. People who love each other — or even care about each other's feelings — do not treat each other the way you are being treated. That your girlfriend has been seeing someone else is entirely possible. And whether she laughs it off or not, it isn't funny.

I know it's hard, but someone who acts the way she has isn't worth killing yourself over. It may be scary, but it's time for the two of you to separate. If you need emotional support, have friends with you when you tell her. And if you need more support than they can give, contact the nearest gay and lesbian center for counseling because they WILL be able to help you. Trust me, you'll be glad you did.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has gotten herself into more debt than she earns in a year. She finally confessed to me that she can make only the minimum payments on her credit cards.

She has asked me for help, but she refuses to allow me to monitor her progress paying off her debts. I have refused to help her get out of the hole she has dug for

herself unless I have access to her credit card statements. She had the gall to be upset with my request. I no longer trust her to manage her spending. Am I wrong to feel this way?

— NEEDS ACCESS IN TEXAS

DEAR NEEDS ACCESS: No, you are not wrong. Your wife has a serious problem and is refusing to take the "medicine" that's

required to fix it. I'm not sure what kind of help she expects from you, unless it's money to bail her out of her situation.

Some people shop for the "thrill"; others do it to cope with depression. I have mentioned an organization, Debtors Anonymous, in my column before. It's for individuals who are unable to control their spending. The website is debtorsanonymous.org, and you should look into it. However, if your wife continues to refuse to allow her spending to be monitored, for the sake of your own financial future, you should consult an attorney.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance's best friend, "Ted," accidentally shot himself in the head in front of another friend, "Matt." Matt blames himself for the accident, even though Ted survived and is doing OK.

Matt and Ted were drinking and looking at Ted's gun. The gun has a history of not ejecting the bullet when you want it to. Ted looked to see if the gun had any bullets in it, and it didn't, so Ted put the barrel to his head and pulled the trigger.

Matt feels that Ted blames him for what happened, although nobody blames him. It was just a stupid accident. Are there any support groups out there that my fiance and I can get Matt into? He's really messed up and needs to talk to someone.

— CARING FRIEND IN MONTANA

DEAR CARING FRIEND: Among the rules of responsible gun ownership are never to point the barrel at anyone and never to presume that the gun is empty. Ted is lucky his stupidity didn't cost him his life. If there is any support group I'd recommend for Matt — and Ted, too, as soon as he's fully recovered — it would be AA. It appears both of them have a serious problem with alcohol.

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weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Cloudy with rain late	Periods of rain	Cloudy with a bit of rain	Low clouds; snow at night	Still cloudy
Baker City 37 Comfort Index™ 4	42 35 0	42 29 2	40 24 2	37 30 1
La Grande 37 Comfort Index™ 3	44 37 0	42 30 0	39 24 2	37 33 1
Enterprise 34 Comfort Index™ 4	43 36 0	41 24 1	35 20 2	34 31 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	47°	46°	46°
Low Thursday	32°	35°	34°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.04	0.04	0.20
Month to date	0.08	0.09	0.53
Normal month to date	0.48	0.97	1.84
Year to date	0.08	0.09	0.53
Normal year to date	0.48	0.97	1.84

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY

Lowest relative humidity	70%
Afternoon wind	S at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.5
Evapotranspiration	0.03

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)

Phillips Reservoir	8% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	28% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	37% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	26% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	21% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	60% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1080 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	8 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	166 cfs
Minam. River at Minam.	251 cfs
Powder River near Richland	60 cfs

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 79° Boca Raton, Fla.
Low: -21° Saranac Lake, N.Y.
Wettest: 4.56" Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

OREGON
High: 55° Tillamook
Low: 23° Mitchell
Wettest: 1.46" North Bend

WEATHER HISTORY

Snow is rare in Florida. It did not fall in Miami Beach until 1977; however, on Jan. 19, snowflakes fell for the first time at the famous resort. Tampa had 0.25 of an inch, and Plant City, Fla., got 2 inches.

SUN & MOON

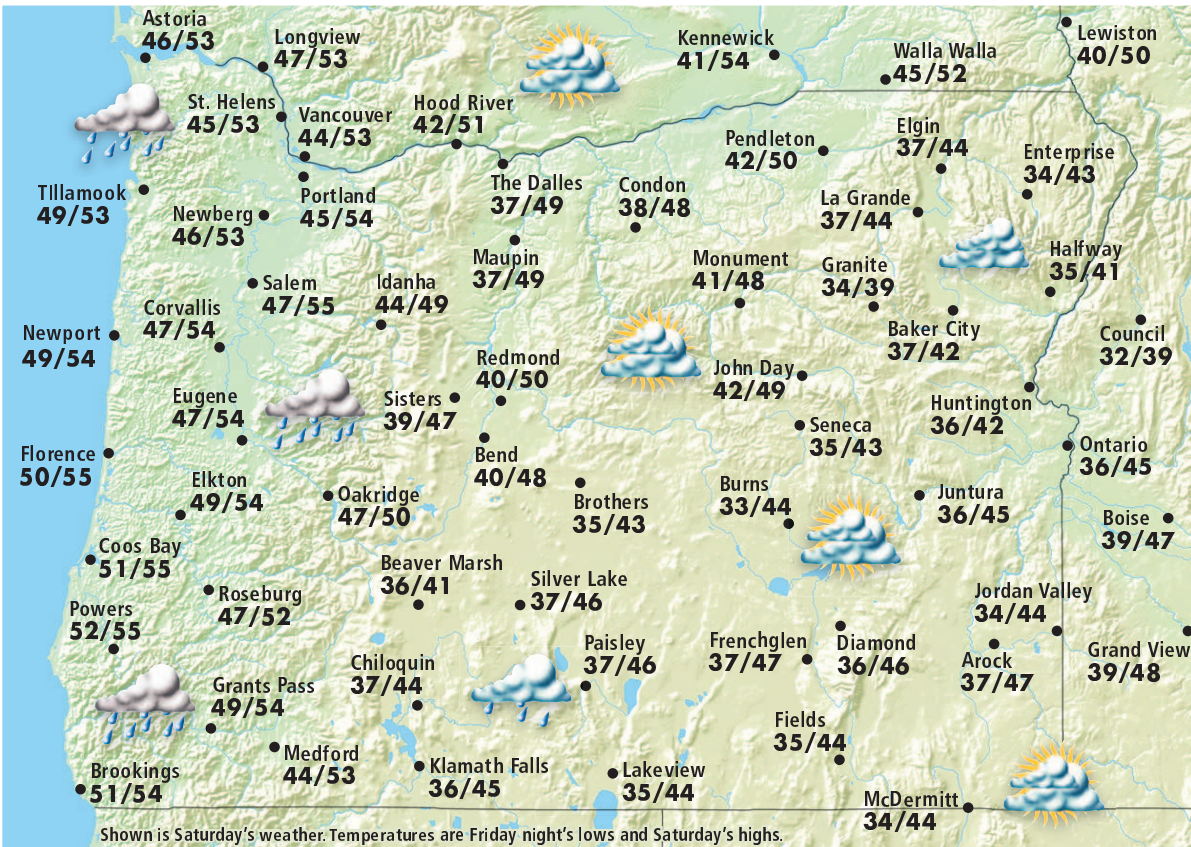
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	7:26 a.m.	7:26 a.m.
Sunset	4:39 p.m.	4:41 p.m.
Moonrise	2:17 p.m.	3:15 p.m.
Moonset	4:49 a.m.	5:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 4	Feb 12

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	53/39/c	49/39/r
Bend	48/35/r	42/26/r
Boise	47/42/r	51/31/sh
Brookings	54/45/r	50/40/r
Burns	44/33/r	41/24/r
Coos Bay	55/43/r	51/41/r
Corvallis	54/43/r	48/37/r
Council Bluffs	39/36/sn	42/24/sn
Elgin	44/37/r	41/30/r
Eugene	54/42/r	49/37/r
Hermiston	53/41/c	45/33/r
Hood River	51/40/c	44/36/r
Imnaha	48/39/r	46/27/sn
John Day	49/42/r	45/29/r
Joseph	43/36/sn	41/23/sn
Kennewick	54/40/c	44/32/r
Klamath Falls	45/37/r	42/27/sn
Lakeview	44/34/r	40/24/sn

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

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Lewiston	50/39/r	46/34/r
Longview	53/41/r	47/36/r
Meacham	42/36/r	40/28/r
Medford	53/40/r	49/34/r
Newport	54/44/r	49/42/r
Olympia	52/38/r	46/34/r
Ontario	45/37/r	49/30/sh
Pasco	52/38/c	45/33/r
Pendleton	50/39/r	41/32/r
Portland	54/41/r	48/38/r
Powers	55/42/r	50/40/r
Redmond	50/34/r	42/27/r
Roseburg	52/41/r	47/37/r
Salem	55/42/r	49/38/r
Spokane	44/33/r	38/26/sn
The Dalles	49/37/c	45/34/sn
Ukiah	44/35/r	39/25/r
Walla Walla	52/39/r	44/35/r

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Cloudy

27 **24**

Cloudy

36 **32**

Cloudy

29 **26**

Cloudy

41 **34**

Cloudy

43 **37**

PHILLIPS LAKE

Cloudy

39 **33**

Cloudy

44 **38**

Cloudy

39 **33**

Cloudy

49 **43**

Cloudy

45 **37**



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