

Wife resents being benched in favor of her brother-in-law

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. Things are generally good, but we keep having the same old argument related to his little brother.

They have a close relationship, which is great, but I often end up feeling like I'm playing second fiddle to my brother-in-law. If I ask my husband to go out and do something on the weekend, he'll say he doesn't feel like it. Minutes later, if his brother makes the same suggestion, he's up and getting ready to go! Sometimes I end up along for the ride, which lessens the sting a little, but usually I'm left alone.

It wouldn't be so bad if not for the fact that I don't have family close by, and I'm the agency lead where I work, so having "work friends" isn't an option. This leaves my husband the only person I have to spend time with.

I have tried explaining this to him, but when I try, he overreacts and claims I don't want him to spend any time with his brother, which is not what I'm saying. I have begun to feel that he's honest with me when he says no to something, but just can't bring himself to say no to his brother. Either way, it's exhausting and ridiculous. Is there any way to address this, or do I just deal with the sting when it happens and let it go?

— COMPETING FOR ATTENTION
DEAR COMPETING: If you and your husband haven't blocked out some time each week to spend together — a date night — you should. While I don't think it's healthy for you to be entirely dependent upon him for social contact, I do think you should be higher on his list of priorities than his brother.

Because you have already discussed this and seem to have gotten nowhere, please consider finding some other social outlets so you aren't so isolated. Special interest groups or hobbies come to mind.

DEAR ABBY: I was waiting in line to get a cup of coffee and the customer behind me was so close she was almost touching me. Then she coughed without covering her mouth. I stepped away, but she closed in on me and coughed again without covering.
I turned and politely asked her to step

back and cover her mouth the next time she coughed. She said she had an allergy and not a cold. I suggested that because we are in the midst of cold and flu season, there's no way that I — or anyone else — could know the difference between a cough from allergy or illness. Was it rude on my part? Or should we all practice some courtesy by covering our mouths when we cough or sneeze?

— RUDE IN MINNESOTA
DEAR RUDE: What you said was not rude; it was common sense. The notion that if you don't think you're sick ("only allergic"), you have the right to cough on others is misguided. When you asked the woman not to hover near you, she should have respected your request, stepped back and not closed in again whether or not she continued to cough. Flu season is in full swing. That's why it's important for everyone who is out in public — and exposed — to practice good hygiene.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and a ballet dancer, although I just started dancing seriously at 12. I have been in some shows and my teacher has started me on pointe work. It has become my dream to dance professionally.

When I confided it to my mother, she told me it would be impossible. I take two classes a week, but I will be taking more — possibly five — this year. Should I continue with my dream or pursue something else? I know it's a tough profession to work in, but it is what I love.

— DANCING FOR JOY IN SAN DIEGO
DEAR DANCING FOR JOY: A career in dance requires strength, determination, discipline and sacrifice. These are all traits that will serve you well regardless of what profession you decide to pursue when you're older. The person you should ask this question of is your ballet teacher, who is better able to evaluate your talent than I can at a distance.

But I urge you to stick with dance as long as it interests you. Even if you don't eventually become a performer, you could become a choreographer, a teacher or find a rewarding career in some other capacity with a dance company.

Now is not the time to give up on this dream.

Dramatic temperature swings heading to Midwest

By Michael Tarm and David Williams

Associated Press
CHICAGO — The painfully cold weather holding much of the Midwest in a historic deep freeze sent temperatures plunging to record lows Thursday in several cities as the system marched east. But a dramatic swing of as much as 80 degrees was expected within days.

The frigid conditions canceled more flights, and the number of deaths blamed on the cold climbed to 13. Yet there were signs that life was getting back to normal as some students returned to school, train travel resumed and businesses reopened.

A rapid thaw seemed imminent. For instance, Moline, Illinois, saw a temperature of minus 33 degrees Thursday and was forecast to hit 49 degrees by Monday.

Meanwhile, the extreme cold was settling in over the Northeast. In western New York, a storm that dumped up to 20 inches of snow gave way to subzero temperatures and dangerous wind chills. The arctic conditions caused problems from Buffalo to Brooklyn, where about 200 firefighters battling an early morning blaze in a commercial building took turns getting warm on buses.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said state police would crack down on truckers who violated a travel ban on Interstate 90 between Rochester and the Pennsylvania border, after a tractor-trailer crash was blamed for a major pileup.

Schools in parts of Wisconsin,

Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa remained closed Thursday. But students headed back to school in eastern North Dakota, where subzero temperatures were forecast to crawl upward.

The blast of polar air also strained infrastructure with some of the lowest temperatures in a generation, snapping rail lines and knocking out utilities. In Detroit, more than two dozen water mains froze. About 1,700 flights in and out of Chicago airports were canceled.

Chicago's temperature dropped to a low of around minus 21 degrees (minus 30 Celsius) on Thursday, slightly above the city's lowest-ever reading of minus 27 degrees (minus 32 Celsius) in January 1985. Milwaukee's low was minus 25 degrees. Minneapolis recorded minus 24 degrees, and wind chills were as low as minus 38, an improvement from a day earlier.

Rockford, Illinois, saw a record low temperature of minus 31, on Thursday. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, set a daily record low of minus 30 degrees.

Towing companies saw a huge demand for service after hundreds of vehicles got stranded. Trains and buses in Chicago operated with few passengers.

The hardest commuters ventured out only after covering nearly every square inch of flesh against the extreme chill, which froze ice crystals on eyelashes and eyebrows in minutes. The Postal Service even took the rare step of suspending mail delivery

in many places, and United Parcel Service also halted deliveries in several areas.

The bitter cold was the result of a split in the polar vortex, a mass of cold air that normally stays bottled up in the Arctic. The split allowed the air to spill much farther south than usual.

The weather-related deaths included an elderly Illinois man who was found several hours after he fell trying to get into his home, an Ohio woman found in a vacant home, and a University of Iowa student found dead behind an academic hall.

In Michigan, state and utility officials warned residents that they risked brief interruptions of natural gas service if they did not help reduce energy. The warning followed a fire at a utility's suburban Detroit facility that affected natural gas supplies. By Thursday, Consumers Energy said it was "cautiously optimistic" that its requests to curb natural gas use were "having a positive effect."

Amtrak began to restore service out of Chicago, one of the nation's busiest rail hubs, after canceling dozens of trains.

In Saco, Maine, firefighters had to worry about frostbite, slippery conditions and frozen gear as they chipped away at ice and snow to move hoses. A siren got stuck, contributing to the bedlam. Firefighters took breaks to warm up, but the conditions wore them down.

"You could see the look on their faces. They were cold," Deputy Fire Chief David Pendleton said.

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weather

TONIGHT

Mostly cloudy

Baker City 27

Comfort Index™ 6

FRI

A bit of afternoon rain

Baker City 43 34

Comfort Index™ 2

SAT

A little rain

Baker City 45 31

Comfort Index™ 1

SUN

A little rain

Baker City 44 26

Comfort Index™ 1

MON

Snow, 1-2"

Baker City 37 13

Comfort Index™ 0

La Grande 34

Comfort Index™ 3

FRI

A bit of afternoon rain

La Grande 45 37

Comfort Index™ 1

SAT

A little rain

La Grande 45 35

Comfort Index™ 0

SUN

A little rain

La Grande 41 28

Comfort Index™ 1

MON

Snow, 1-2"

La Grande 34 19

Comfort Index™ 0

Enterprise 30

Comfort Index™ 3

FRI

A bit of afternoon rain

Enterprise 45 34

Comfort Index™ 2

SAT

A little rain

Enterprise 44 34

Comfort Index™ 2

SUN

A little rain

Enterprise 41 28

Comfort Index™ 1

MON

Snow, 1-2"

Enterprise 34 17

Comfort Index™ 0

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 Wednesday

39°

39°

41°

Low Wednesday

18°

29°

25°

PRECIPITATION (inches)

24 hours through 4 p.m. yest.

0.00

0.00

0.00

Month to date

0.54

1.61

3.40

Normal month to date

0.80

1.63

3.17

Year to date

0.54

1.61

3.40

Normal year to date

0.80

1.63

3.17

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 79°

Tamiami, Fla.

Low: -53°

Cotton, Minn.

Wettest: 1.35"

Santa Barbara, Calif.

OREGON

High: 52°

Newport

Low: 17°

Rome

Wettest: none

WEATHER HISTORY

Brownsville, Texas, and Juneau, Alaska, both had temperatures of 32 degrees on Feb. 1, 1985. On that same day, 2 inches of snow accumulated in Dallas, Texas.

SUN & MOON

THU.

FRI.

Sunrise

7:15 a.m.

7:13 a.m.

Sunset

4:57 p.m.

4:59 p.m.

Moonrise

4:13 a.m.

5:07 a.m.

Moonset

1:31 p.m.

2:17 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New

First

Full

Last

Feb 4

Feb 12

Feb 19

Feb 26

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

Phillips Reservoir

9% of capacity

Unity Reservoir

31% of capacity

Owyhee Reservoir

38% of capacity

McKay Reservoir

40% of capacity

Wallowa Lake

24% of capacity

Thief Valley Reservoir

79% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy

1560 cfs

Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder

10 cfs

Burnt River near Unity

10 cfs

Umatilla River near Gibbon

244 cfs

Minam River at Minam

128 cfs

Powder River near Richland

67 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

FRI.

SAT.

City

Hi/Low/W

City

Hi/Low/W

Astoria

47/52

Lewiston

33/47

Bend

48/35/r

Longview

50/39/r

Boise

51/38/c

Meacham

44/35/r

Brookings

53/45/r

Medford

52/42/r

Burns

43/31/r

Newport

52/45/r

Coos Bay

52/44/r

Olympia

51/41/r

Corvallis

52/42/r

Ontario

46/35/c

Council

39/32/c

Pasco

41/35/r

Elgin

44/37/r

Pendleton

45/39/r

Eugene

52/42/r

Portland

52/42/r

Hermiston

42/38/r

Powers

54/46/r

Hood River

46/40/r

Redmond

48/35/r

Imnaha

49/40/c

Roseburg

50/44/r

John Day

51/42/r

Salem

53/41/r

Joseph

44/34/c

Spokane

39/36/r

Kennewick

43/38/r

The Dalles

44/37/r

Klamath Falls

47/33/r

Ukiah

47/35/r

Lakeview

45/32/r

Walla Walla

43/40/r

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

ANTHONY LAKES

Clouding up

29

23

MT. EMILY REC.

Clouding up

40

33

EAGLE CAP WILD.

Partly sunny

29

19

WALLOWA LAKE

Partly sunny

42

29

THIEF VALLEY RES.

Increasing clouds

43

27

PHILLIPS LAKE

Thickening clouds

42

25

BROWNLEE RES.

Mostly sunny

44

29

EMIGRANT ST. PARK

Clouds and sun

44

26

MCKAY RESERVOIR

Sun and clouds

45

34

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK

Becoming cloudy

45

34

GO

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