

# May-December romance trips on question of having kids

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 67-year-old single white man. My girlfriend is 21 and African-American. We have been together a year and a half and are deeply in love. We have lots of fun together and go out and do things

When we are out together, people often stare at us. She's very attractive and turns heads. I tell her everyone is looking at her because she is so beautiful, but that's probably not totally true.

We want to be together, but I'm reluctant. The love feels good and true, but the rest is scary. We would like to have children, but she wonders if there is any risk in having a child with me. We have tried to break up, but we missed each other so much we got back together. We have a very active sex life. Do you have any advice?

— UNCERTAIN IN OHIO

**DEAR UNCERTAIN:** People may stare because of the large discrepancy in your ages or because they aren't used to seeing interracial couples. Because you are concerned about how things will play out if the two of you decide to start a family, it would be wise to get genetic counseling because of your age. While 67 isn't over the hill, the decision to embark on starting a family at that age may depend upon your overall health and the life expectancy in your family.

**DEAR ABBY:** Our friend recently got engaged to someone who is, well, terrible! This is her first real relationship. They moved in together and got a dog within six months.

He's a lot older than she is, emotionally manipulative and abusive. Before they got together — a couple of months after his previous fiancée broke their engagement — she talked constantly about how desperate she was for a boyfriend. Long story short, she was looking for love, and he appeared.

We're not the only ones worried for her. We have spoken with several mutual friends. We all have the same concerns but are afraid to approach her about them. He has damaged her professional and personal relationships and essentially clipped her wings.

She was a bright, kind and ambitious person with wonderful dreams before she settled for him. She has lost herself in this relationship,

and we don't know what to say to her, if we should say anything at all. Help!

— NERVOUS IN THE NORTHWEST

**DEAR NERVOUS:** While it may be tempting, resist the urge to drift away from her because of him. Rather than remain silent, you and the others should point out the impact her fiancé has had on her professional relationships. If he is as you describe, she may eventually learn for herself why his previous fiancée didn't marry him. And when that happens, she may need all the support you all can give her.

**DEAR ABBY:** Five years ago, my 26-year marriage ended in divorce. I am now in a wonderful new relationship. Do I have an obligation to inform my ex of my new status?

— DEBBIE IN THE EAST

**DEAR DEBBIE:** Heck no! Let your children do it for you.

**DEAR ABBY:** My best friend, "Kyra," has joined the drama department at our school. She has made a lot of theater friends now and hangs out with them every day after school. She used to meet me occasionally at my locker after school, but no longer does so. The only time I see her, she's with her theater friends, and I'm uncomfortable because I don't know them and I'm shy.

I'm trying to make friends with Kyra's friends, but when I'm with her, she kind of ignores me and doesn't try to include me as much as she could. It's depressing that my best friend would rather hang out with other people than me. I'm missing her. What do I do?

— CAST-OFF IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CAST-OFF:** Kyra's behavior is insensitive, but I don't think you can change her. So the solution will be for you to become less emotionally dependent upon her. A way to do that would be to develop some outside interests of your own and start cultivating them.

While Kyra might have a flair for drama, perhaps you might be more interested in sports, art, computers, etc. If you start to explore what activities are available, it will provide you with a larger circle of acquaintances, and you'll miss your friend less because you are filling your time with other things. Please give it a try.

# Why weather forecasters still struggle to get the big storms right

**By Jeffrey Halverson**  
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It was March 2017, and a winter storm named Stella promised to deliver up to a foot and a half of snow to New York City and parts of New Jersey. Officials pushed out blizzard warnings, suggesting the city was under imminent snowy siege.

But only 7 inches fell. Then-Gov. Chris Christie blasted forecasters. "I don't know how much we should be paying these weather guys," he said. "I've had my fill of the National Weather Service after seven and a half years."

For anyone following the weather, forecasts for big storms are sometimes still roller-coaster rides — with sudden shifts in track or intensity. As a meteorologist who forecasts for a large urban market, I can attest to the frustration. Why can't we get it right every time, given this era of 24/7 weather data, dozens of satellite and sophisticated computer models? The answer lies in the quirks between the most popular forecasting models.

## Battle of the models

Computer forecast models have become the mainstay of weather prediction across North America and many other parts of the world. Run on fast supercomputers, these sophisticated mathematical models of the atmosphere have gotten better over the past couple decades.

Human forecast skill has improved by approximately

one day per decade. In other words, today's four-day forecast is as accurate as a three-day forecast was a decade ago.

Forecasters in the U.S. routinely examine several models, but the two most discussed ones are the American and the European. When the models disagree on the track of a big storm, forecasters must often choose which they believe is most correct. This decision can make or break a critical forecast.

Most meteorologists agree that the European model is the most skillful. This was cemented in March 1993, when it correctly forecast the track and intensity of a historical Nor'easter. Called the "Storm of the Century," the storm dropped a blanket of heavy snow from the Gulf Coast to the northern tip of Maine.

The storm was a milestone for what is termed medium-range forecasting, or forecasts made three to seven days out. The European model nailed the prediction five days in advance. That meant officials could declare states of emergency before the first flakes ever flew.

Fast forward to 2012, and the Euro was still making correct calls on big, dramatic storms. But this time, the lead time went beyond eight days. The storm was Hurricane Sandy, a massive Atlantic storm. More than a week in advance, the European model predicted an oddball westward jog in Sandy's track, whereas the American model arced it eastward and harmlessly

away from the East Coast. Score: another major victory for the European.

## Predicting the weather

It all comes down to this: Weather forecasters have many choices for predictive models. The art of forecasting is based on years of experience spent with each model, learning the unique biases and strengths of each. The National Weather Service and other forecasting outfits have made strides in better communicating forecast uncertainty, given the inherent spread in the models. But it still often comes down to that gut feeling: European or American?

Researchers are taking steps to improve U.S. medium-range weather prediction by doubling the computer speed and tweaking the way the model ingests data. Companies like Panasonic and IBM have entered the arena with their own novel weather prediction models.

In the meantime, while we wait for the American model to "catch up" to the skill of the European, there are a few ways people can learn to decipher the forecast message. Individual model runs are less skillful beyond about five days; what you're looking for is run-to-run consistency. Also, seek out forecasts that frame the predictive uncertainty. For instance, a forecast may suggest alternate scenarios for an upcoming snowstorm: a 20 percent chance of up to 15 inches, or a 20 percent chance that only 4 to 6 inches will fall.

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# weather

	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	Mostly cloudy	Chilly with snow and rain	Mostly cloudy and chilly	A bit of snow	Mostly cloudy and chilly
<b>Baker City</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41 29</b>	<b>40 24</b>	<b>36 18</b>	<b>34 16</b>
Comfort Index™	0	0	0	0	0
<b>La Grande</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41 31</b>	<b>39 25</b>	<b>36 23</b>	<b>35 22</b>
Comfort Index™	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39 30</b>	<b>37 21</b>	<b>33 19</b>	<b>32 17</b>
Comfort Index™	0	0	0	0	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 Monday	37°	37°	36°
Low Monday	23°	24°	27°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	0.04	0.13	0.45
Month to date	0.85	1.36	1.96
Normal month to date	0.23	0.42	0.94
Year to date	1.39	2.97	5.36
Normal year to date	1.03	2.05	4.11

## MONDAY EXTREMES

**NATION** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 87° Fort Pierce, Fla.  
Low: -28° Havre, Mont.  
Wettest: 1.76" Tillamook, Ore.

**OREGON**  
High: 51° Medford  
Low: 6° Mitchell  
Wettest: 1.19" Florence

## WEATHER HISTORY

A gale-whipped blizzard on Feb. 13, 1899, dumped up to 3 feet of snow from Massachusetts to Delaware. Cold air pushed deep into the South. The mercury at Tallahassee, Fla., dropped to 2 degrees below zero.

## SUN & MOON

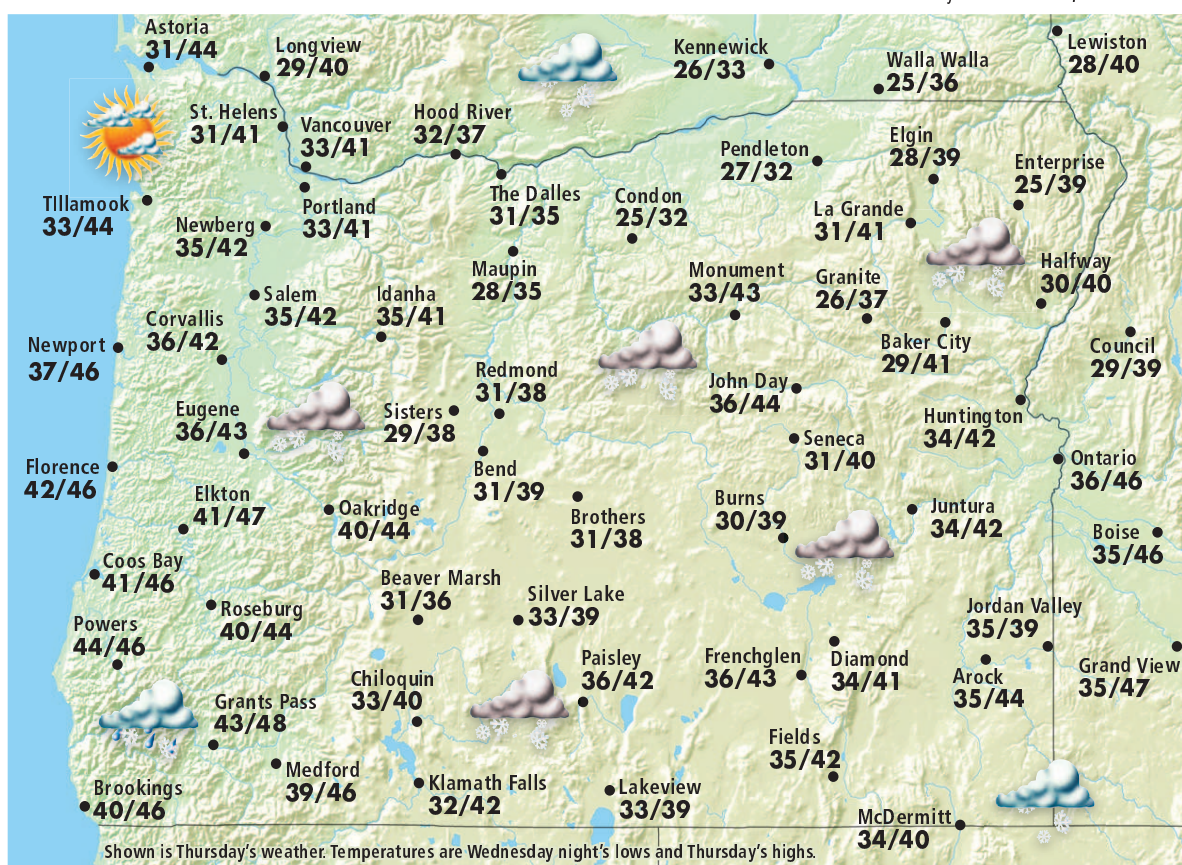
	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	6:58 a.m.	6:56 a.m.
Sunset	5:16 p.m.	5:18 p.m.
Moonrise	11:24 a.m.	12:05 p.m.
Moonset	1:21 a.m.	2:29 a.m.

## MOON PHASES



## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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## REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU.		FRI.	
	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W
Astoria	44/37/r	47/34/r	40/33/sn	40/27/sn
Bend	39/26/sn	38/26/sn	40/37/r	45/32/sh
Boise	46/32/sn	42/27/sn	Meacham	39/29/sn
Brookings	46/36/r	47/37/r	Medford	46/32/r
Burns	39/25/sn	33/19/sn	Newport	46/38/r
Coos Bay	46/39/r	47/40/r	Olympia	37/33/r
Corvallis	42/37/r	43/35/sh	Ontario	46/35/sn
Council	39/31/sn	35/23/sn	Pasco	33/28/sn
Elgin	39/31/sn	39/25/c	Pendleton	32/27/sn
Eugene	43/36/r	44/36/sh	Portland	41/36/r
Hermiston	33/28/sn	41/26/c	Powers	46/38/r
Hood River	37/33/r	42/31/sn	Redmond	38/22/sn
Imnaha	46/34/sn	41/26/sn	Roseburg	44/36/r
John Day	44/30/sn	37/26/sn	Salem	42/37/r
Joseph	40/30/sn	36/22/sn	Spokane	31/25/sn
Kennewick	33/29/sn	41/25/c	The Dalles	35/26/sn
Klamath Falls	42/25/sn	35/26/sn	Ukiah	38/28/sn
Lakeview	39/25/sn	32/22/sn	Walla Walla	36/27/c

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

## RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

<b>ANTHONY LAKES</b> Snow, 1-3"; windy	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>PHILLIPS LAKE</b> Bit of rain, snow	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>MT. EMILY REC.</b> Snow and rain	<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>BROWNLEE RES.</b> Snow and rain	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>EAGLE CAP WILD.</b> Snow, 1-3"; breezy	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>EMIGRANT ST. PARK</b> Snow and rain	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>WALLOWA LAKE</b> Snow and rain	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>MCKAY RESERVOIR</b> A bit of snow	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>THIEF VALLEY RES.</b> Snow and rain	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>RED BRIDGE ST. PARK</b> Snow and rain	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>



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