

Child's accusations against cousin causes rift in family

DEAR ABBY: My brother and sister-in-law recently told me their 5-year-old son claims my 9-year-old son touched him inappropriately on several occasions. Understanding that any parent believes what their child says, I asked my son if he has ever touched or done anything inappropriate to anyone. His response was, "Why would I do that?"

My husband and I asked our son about it on several different occasions and got the same answer. Not wanting to pressure him to the point of coercion and force him to admit to something he did not do, I accepted his denials.

My brother and his wife are convinced my son did these heinous things to their son. What more is there for me to do? My son and I are now being shunned and barred from being around any of my brother's kids.

— SHUNNED IN COLORADO

DEAR SHUNNED: A young child might make a statement like the one your nephew did to get attention, get the other child in trouble OR because he is being touched inappropriately by someone else. This certainly bears further exploration, and the people who should do that are your brother and his wife.

If your son ends up being guilty, then you and your husband must investigate where this behavior came from and get him professional help. Until this is resolved, the children should be kept apart.

DEAR ABBY: The other day, I was checking numbers on my contacts list in my phone. It has been years since I purged any, so I sent out a few texts with just the person's name. Later, I woke up around 3 a.m. and couldn't get back to sleep, so I checked my social media.

I returned two emails, then saw I had a response to one of my texts which read, "???" So I texted back my name. Next thing I knew, my phone was ringing. It was an acquaintance from years ago. I answered, even though I could have let it go into voicemail, because I didn't want to be rude. However, the last thing I wanted to do was

have a 3 a.m. conversation with this person — or any person, for that matter.

In my opinion, a phone call is different from a text. Calling me at 3 a.m. was inappropriate, bordering on rude. The other person contends I shouldn't have texted that late if I didn't want to talk. I have put this matter of contemporary communication etiquette out there, and the feedback I'm receiving on the subject is divided. What do you think?

— TEXT ETIQUETTE

IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TEXT ETI-

QUETTE: What I think is that YOU owe the person an apology for having disturbed him or her in the wee hours of the morning and, while you're at it, explain that you didn't think your text would be seen until after sunup.

DEAR ABBY: I get my hair done at the local beauty school. When I pay, there is no room on the bill to leave a tip. Is it OK not to tip these people because they are in school, or should I plan on bringing cash with me next time?

— WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WONDERING: If you like the service the student performed, show your gratitude (and respect!) by bringing along enough money to tip him or her. That's what I would do, as long as there is no school rule that forbids it.

DEAR ABBY: At the checkout counter I noticed the clerk had a tattoo in the cleavage of her breasts. I could see it because of her low-cut blouse. What's the correct protocol? Should I ignore the obvious, or should I look closer to be sure I am seeing it correctly? Should I compliment her on her nice tattoo? What exactly am I to do while she's ringing up my purchase?

— BAFFLED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BAFFLED: I'm so glad you asked! What you should do is keep your eyes focused on the tally the computer monitor shows to be sure the checker is ringing up your purchase correctly. It's the way to make the "breast" of a touchy situation.

Late-winter storm hits Midwest after paralyzing Colorado

By Dan Elliott and Bob Moen

Associated Press

LONGMONT, Colo. — A blizzard that paralyzed parts of Colorado and Wyoming barreled into the Midwest on Thursday, bringing whiteout conditions to western Nebraska and dumping heavy rain that prompted evacuations in communities farther east.

Emergency crews responded after a vehicle was swept off a road in Norfolk, Nebraska, and rising water along the Elkhorn River prompted evacuations of the eastern side of the city of 24,000 people. The missing individual had not been found by midmorning Thursday.

South Dakota's governor closed all state offices Thursday as the blizzard conditions moved in, while wind, blowing snow and snow-packed roadways made travel treacherous in western Nebraska. Heavy rain caused flooding in eastern parts of both states, as well as in Iowa.

The massive late-winter storm hit Colorado on Wednesday, causing widespread power outages, forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights and wreaked havoc on roadways as drivers became overwhelmed by blinding snow. A wind gust clocked in at 97 mph in Colorado Springs.

In the Texas Panhandle, a utility worker was killed while working to restore power amid strong winds pushed in by the storm.

Wind gusts in the area exceeded 80 mph.

The storm also contributed to the death of Daniel Groves, a Colorado State Patrol officer who was hit and killed by a car as he helped another driver who had slid off Interstate 76 near Denver.

National Guard troops used specialized vehicles with tank-like treads to rescue stranded drivers. Officials with the Colorado National Guard and state police said they believed all stranded motorists had been rescued overnight, but searches were ongoing Thursday.

The Red Cross reported Thursday that 620 people had stayed in shelters overnight in Colorado and Wyoming.

The window-rattling storm brought blizzards, floods and a tornado across more than 25 states Wednesday, stretching from the northern Rocky Mountains to Texas and beyond.

"This is a very epic cyclone," said Greg Carbin, chief of forecast operations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Prediction Center. "We're looking at something that will go down in the history books."

The culprit was a sudden and severe drop in ground-level air pressure in Colorado, the most pronounced dive since 1950, Carbin said. It was caused by a combination of the jet stream and normal conditions in the wind shadow

of the Rockies.

Air rushed into the low-pressure area and then rose into the atmosphere.

"It's like a vacuum cleaner, really," Carbin said. When that much air rushes higher into the atmosphere, it causes severe weather.

Meteorologists call the rapid change in pressure a "bomb cyclone" or "bombogenesis."

A tornado in New Mexico ripped roofs from buildings in the small town of Dexter, about 200 miles southwest of Albuquerque. Authorities said five people were hurt, but none of the injuries was life-threatening. A dairy euthanized about 150 cows injured by the tornado.

High winds knocked 25 railroad freight cars off a bridge into a mostly dry riverbed near Logan in northeast New Mexico. No one was injured, New Mexico State Police said.

Moen reported from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Also contributing were Associated

Press reporters Blake Nicholson in Bismarck,

North Dakota; Gretchen Ehlke in Milwaukee;

James Anderson and Thomas Peipert in

Denver; Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis; Margery

Beck and Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska;

Seth Borenstein in Washington; Paul

Davenport in Phoenix; David Warren in Dallas;

and Matt Volz in Helena, Montana.

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weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Clear to partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny and pleasant
Baker City 26 Comfort Index™ 4	50 4	29 6	54 6	31 9
La Grande 29 Comfort Index™ 6	52 6	29 10	56 10	29 10
Enterprise 25 Comfort Index™ 8	51 9	28 9	53 8	27 10

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	43°	42°	41°
Low Wednesday	22°	22°	22°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
Wednesday	0.00	Trace	0.33
Month to date	0.35	0.01	0.98
Normal month to date	0.32	0.60	0.95
Year to date	2.81	4.16	10.87
Normal year to date	1.70	3.37	6.45

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY	40%
Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	7.6
Evapotranspiration	0.09

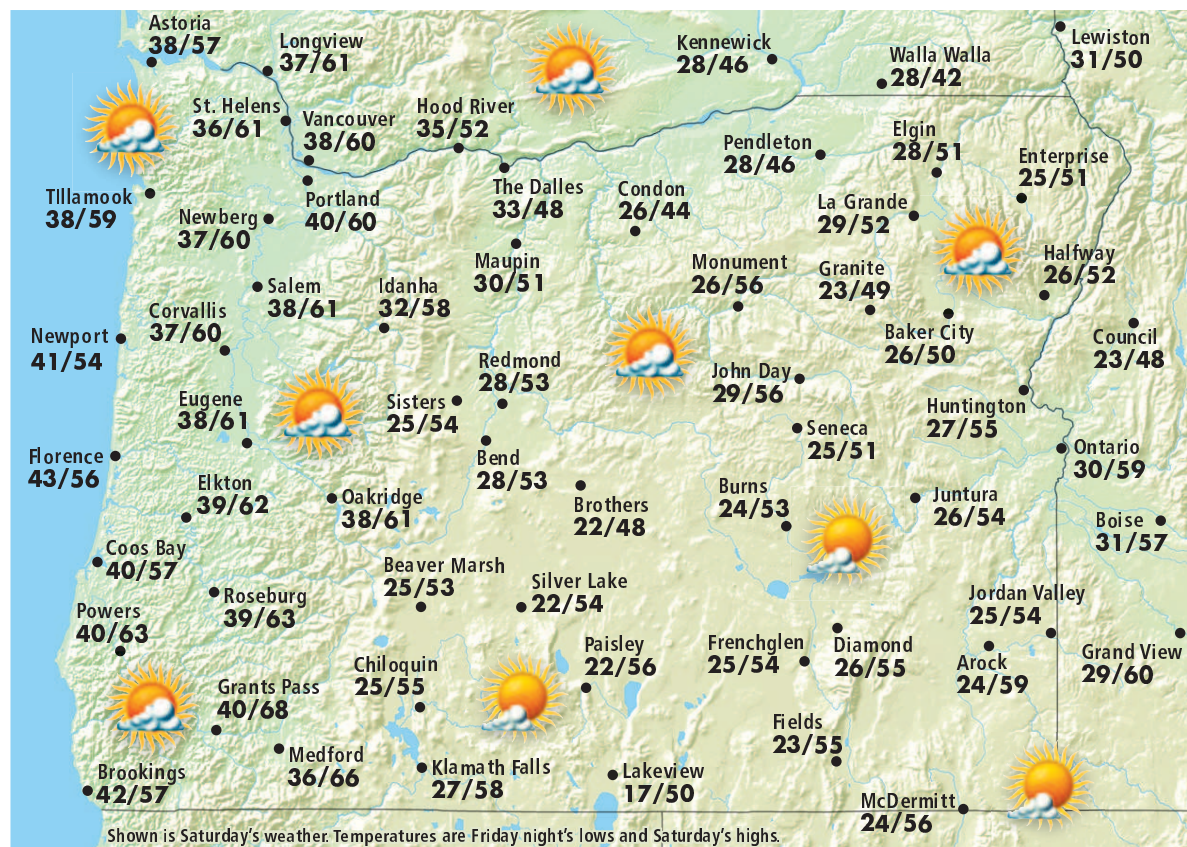
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)	N.A.
Phillips Reservoir	10% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	40% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	49% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	60% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	34% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	105% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)	N.A.
Grande Ronde at Troy	1690 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	23 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	184 cfs
Minam River at Minam	124 cfs
Powder River near Richland	265 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY	It was no "Midsummer Night's Dream" on March 15, 1843, in North Carolina, where 15 inches of snow accumulated. Beware the Ides of March.
RESERVOIR STORAGE	
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SUN & MOON	FRI.	SAT.	
Sunrise	7:06 a.m.	7:04 a.m.	
Sunset	6:58 p.m.	6:59 p.m.	
Moonrise	12:41 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	
Moonset	3:27 a.m.	4:25 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
Full	Last	New	First
Mar 20	Mar 27	Apr 5	Apr 12

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	57/39/pc	64/44/pc	Lewiston	50/34/pc	50/32/pc
Bend	53/29/pc	56/28/pc	Longview	61/39/c	67/39/pc
Boise	57/34/s	59/36/s	Meacham	50/27/pc	54/26/pc
Brookings	57/42/pc	64/47/pc	Medford	66/39/pc	72/42/pc
Burns	53/29/pc	57/30/s	Newport	54/41/c	60/46/pc
Coos Bay	57/41/pc	64/45/pc	Olympia	61/37/c	64/36/pc
Corvallis	60/40/c	65/42/pc	Ontario	59/33/pc	63/34/s
Council Bluffs	48/26/pc	53/29/pc	Pasco	43/27/pc	48/28/pc
Elgin	51/29/pc	55/29/pc	Pendleton	46/30/pc	52/31/pc
Eugene	61/40/pc	65/41/pc	Portland	60/41/c	66/44/pc
Hermiston	49/31/pc	56/33/pc	Powers	63/40/pc	71/43/pc
Hood River	52/35/pc	59/36/pc	Redmond	53/30/pc	55/30/pc
Imnaha	58/29/pc	58/29/pc	Roseburg	63/41/pc	69/44/pc
John Day	56/31/pc	58/30/s	Salem	61/41/c	67/42/pc
Joseph	50/28/pc	53/26/pc	Spokane	46/29/pc	48/27/pc
Kennewick	46/29/pc	54/32/pc	The Dalles	48/33/pc	53/35/pc
Klamath Falls	58/31/pc	62/32/s	Ukiah	52/27/pc	53/27/pc
Lakeview	50/25/pc	54/23/s	Walla Walla	42/34/pc	47/34/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 SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Partly sunny	34	18	PHILLIPS LAKE Partly sunny	49	25
MT. EMILY REC. Partly sunny	43	28	BROWNLEE RES. Partly sunny	55	28
EAGLE CAP WILD. Partly sunny	37	18	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Partly sunny	48	24
WALLOWA LAKE Partly sunny	50	28	MCKAY RESERVOIR Partly sunny	49	31
THIEF VALLEY RES. Partly sunny	50	29	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Partly sunny	52	29



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