

Couples split according to sex when big group gets together

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Gabriel," has a large network of friends who have known each other for a long time. We get together as a group a couple of times a month for birthdays, sports events, etc. Whenever we do, the men veer away into their own world of conversation, while we women are left to talk to each other and eat dips.

Honestly, I dread it. These women are generally petty, hypersensitive and hard to talk to about anything of substance. We share no common interests in our jobs, musical tastes, television viewing, etc.

I don't want to skip the outings altogether because I have become good friends with the guys, and some of them will be in our wedding. But if I leave the women's table and join the men, I'm afraid I'll send a message that I'm clinging to Gabriel. That's not the case. It's that I prefer the men's conversation to what the women discuss.

Is there a solution? Must I learn to deal with what these women talk about? Can I join the men without the women thinking I'm a clingy fiancée? I would like to enjoy myself at these parties, even if it means breaking the social norm.

— **BORED IN BUFFALO**

DEAR BORED: Discuss this with Gabriel to see what advice he has to offer. I see no reason why you couldn't join the men. However, you should make a point of spending some time with the women so they won't get the impression that you are snubbing them.

DEAR ABBY: We live in an area where rent is very high and buying is out of the question. The nearby lower-priced areas have terrible schools and aren't safe. Because we have a small child, these are real concerns.

We have an opportunity to move to another state where costs are much lower. We could buy a nice home, the schools are excellent, and I could still maintain my same job and salary. The problem is, it would mean moving away from my family.

I want to give my daughter the chance to grow up in circumstances where we aren't constantly worried about not building home equity or saving toward retirement.

But I worry that taking her away from her extended family will be rough.

My husband's relatives live all over the world. He has been in so many countries and states that he's used to not having family around. He wants us to move so we can buy a house and save for retirement. What's your advice?

— **RACHEL IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR RACHEL: You have given solid reasons for making the move. Chief among them is that your child will have a brighter future if she grows up in a safe environment and gets the best education possible, plus there will be less worry about all of you being safe. It is equally important for you and your husband to be able to accumulate enough in savings that your retirement years will be comfortable.

Listen to your husband because you have married a smart man. Family is important, but your daughter already knows who they are. You may be able to visit with them in person or stay in touch via video-chatting.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a student who maintains a decent GPA. However, my parents believe they have a genius in the making.

Since I started at a new school, my mother has been pressuring me more than twice as much. She no longer talks to me except to pester me about that B or C in algebra or any other class. I understand that she wants me to be smart, and I know I should be trying to live up to her expectations of a flawless, straight-A student, but I don't believe I can. Please help me.

— **UNDER PRESSURE**

DEAR UNDER PRESSURE: It might help if you would talk with your teachers about this, and ask if they think you are working up to capacity. If they feel you could be studying more effectively, they may be able to help you earn better grades.

However, if that's not the case, ask if they would speak to your mother at the next parent-teacher conference and explain to her that you are doing all you can. The kind of pressure you're getting at home may not only not help you to raise your grades, it may be counterproductive.

'It's not safe anywhere:' Lives scattered in Mozambique

By **Cara Anna**
The Associated Press

BUZI, Mozambique — We didn't know his name or even see his face. But amid the grim scene of a cyclone-devastated village, the little boy stood out because he danced.

He skipped down the muddy street in Buzi to music only he could hear, oblivious to the suffering around him, at least for a while. He was barefoot and in muddy shorts.

Like many children in the wake of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, he was alone. But he seemed to have a destination, and that put him well ahead of most.

He was almost certainly headed to a makeshift shelter or the concrete floor of a school, now crammed with wet laundry, cooking fires and displaced people.

Life there was perilous. At one school, another small boy lay curled up in a doorway, dozing next to a pile of still-warm ashes.

Hundreds of thousands of uprooted lives, many of them children, have been scattered by the storm that roared in on March 14. Homes were washed away by rivers that burst their banks, sending waters rushing over a vast stretch of central Mozambique.

Survivors described opening the doors of their homes to water that reached their necks. They raced to gather their families and scramble onto rooftops.

There they stayed, sometimes for days. They drank the water around them, as filthy as it was, to stay alive.

Finally, in some cases, a helicopter appeared. It dropped biscuits to eat. And it posed an immediate and painful decision: Whom to save first?

Some families were ripped apart as women or children, or the injured, were whisked away.

What remains, more than two weeks after the cyclone made landfall, is a sodden landscape of disconnectedness and grief.

Phones barely ring or ping, if at all. Internet service was severed and is only now inching back with the aid of emergency responders.

In flashes of hope, people have scouted out the highest points on the flat landscape, waving cellphones in the air: A three-story building in Buzi. A highway overpass in the city of Beira, home to 500,000 and now 90 percent destroyed.

Those who couldn't find a signal were despondent over the chances of finding missing loved ones.

Officials who are pressed for estimates of the number of missing people don't even try. Even the death toll, now above 700 in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, is called very preliminary. It may never be known.

The numbers offered by humanitarian agencies have become a blur. Some 1.8 million people in urgent need. Nearly 136,000 people displaced in worst-hit Mozambique alone. More than 50,000 homes there destroyed.

In the port city of Beira, fishing boats pulled up one

by one on the beach carrying survivors ashore from Buzi and other places.

Children huddled, damp and bewildered, until aid workers drove them away in the back of a pickup truck. They were destined for one of many impromptu displacement camps, likely a school.

Conditions in the camps are often squalid, with little clean water, sanitation or medical supplies. A cholera outbreak has begun, and is gaining speed.

Amid the chaos, families still search for children, parents, spouses, often in vain.

Some survivors stood on the beach in Beira and watched the fishing boats arrive, looking for a familiar face in the crowd.

Zacarias Mauta stood alone. He had come from Buzi, where he survived by climbing a tree. Four days later a helicopter plucked him up and brought him to Beira, a city he had never seen.

He wants to reunite with his family, including four children under the age of 6. He hopes they were taken to Beira as well but does not know.

"I wanted to hold my family but I couldn't," he said of their separation in the storm. "I was also in jeopardy."

Maybe he will find an acquaintance who knows their fate. Maybe he will find work in the unfamiliar city so he can keep looking for them. Maybe the government will help him.

The cyclone taught him this, he said: "It's not safe anywhere anymore."

weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	Cloudy with a little rain	Mostly cloudy, a shower	Rain and drizzle	Dull and dreary	A touch of rain
Baker City	39	54 39	59 33	60 37	62 41
Comfort Index™	6	1	6	8	6
La Grande	41	54 42	56 38	58 40	61 43
Comfort Index™	8	3	3	8	4
Enterprise	37	51 40	51 35	55 38	58 43
Comfort Index™	6	5	4	6	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		SATURDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City La Grande Elgin	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High Saturday	58° 56° 63°	High: 89°	Thermal, Calif.
Low Saturday	26° 30° 28°	Low: 3°	Gothic, Colo.
PRECIPITATION (inches)		Wettest: 2.16"	London, Ohio
Saturday	0.00 0.00 0.00	OREGON	
Month to date	1.17 0.76 1.83	High: 70°	Scappoose
Normal month to date	0.79 1.41 2.13	Low: 19°	Crater Lake
Year to date	3.63 4.91 11.72	Wettest: Trace	Lakeview
Normal year to date	2.17 4.18 7.63		

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	60%
Afternoon wind	WSW at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.7
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)	
Phillips Reservoir	16% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	59% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	60% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	89% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	55% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	107% of capacity

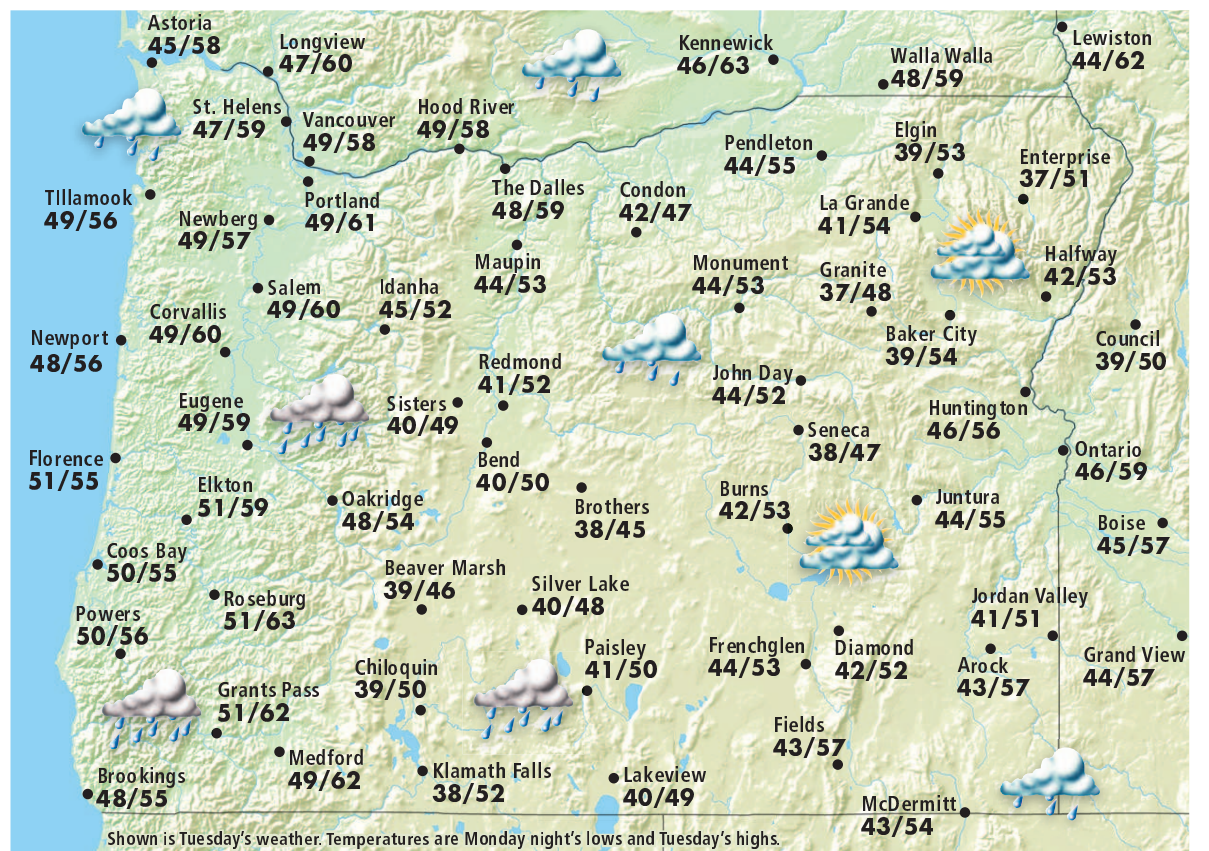
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Saturday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	9300 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	217 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	539 cfs
Minam River at Minam	42.4 cfs
Powder River near Richland	946 cfs

SUN & MOON	
Sunrise	6:34 a.m.
Sunset	7:20 p.m.
Moonrise	5:24 a.m.
Moonset	3:46 p.m.

MOON PHASES	
New	Apr 5
First	Apr 12
Full	Apr 19
Last	Apr 26

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	TUE. HI/Lo/W	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	58/46/c	57/43/c	Lewiston	62/47/c	60/42/sh
Bend	50/38/sh	56/35/c	Longview	60/49/c	57/44/sh
Boise	57/45/sh	61/42/pc	Meacham	52/40/c	54/36/sh
Brookings	55/47/sh	56/47/c	Medford	62/45/sh	66/46/c
Burns	53/38/sh	57/35/sh	Newport	56/47/sh	55/46/sh
Coos Bay	55/48/sh	57/44/sh	Olympia	63/42/pc	59/40/sh
Corvallis	60/47/sh	61/43/sh	Ontario	59/44/sh	67/42/pc
Council	50/39/sh	53/35/sh	Pasco	64/47/c	66/43/c
Elgin	53/42/c	55/37/c	Pendleton	55/46/c	61/42/c
Eugene	59/47/sh	61/44/c	Portland	61/49/c	61/45/sh
Hermiston	60/48/c	66/44/c	Powers	56/48/sh	60/44/c
Hood River	58/47/c	60/43/sh	Redmond	52/38/sh	59/35/c
Imnaha	57/45/c	57/39/sh	Roseburg	63/48/sh	66/47/sh
John Day	52/40/sh	57/38/sh	Salem	60/48/sh	62/45/sh
Joseph	50/39/c	50/34/sh	Spokane	61/39/pc	58/38/c
Kennewick	63/48/c	67/44/c	The Dalles	59/46/sh	62/42/sh
Klamath Falls	52/35/sh	56/36/c	Ukiah	50/39/c	54/34/sh
Lakeview	49/36/sh	53/36/c	Walla Walla	59/50/c	64/46/c

RECREATION FORECAST TUESDAY

Location	Forecast	Temp
ANTHONY LAKES	A shower	35 25
PHILLIPS LAKE	Cloudy, showers	49 36
MT. EMILY REC.	A shower	44 35
BROWNLEE RES.	Spotty showers	56 42
EAGLE CAP WILD.	A passing shower	38 28
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A shower	47 37
WALLOWA LAKE	A shower	50 39
MCKAY RESERVOIR	A shower	53 46
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Cloudy, showers	54 39
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	A shower	54 42



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