Son is gone but not forgotten after leaving clothes behind

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are seniors who look forward to visits from our adult children. The problem is our oldest son. He visits every few months and leaves belongings behind. He has claimed much of the closet, several dresser drawers, the guest bathroom vanity and part of our shed. He says he needs to leave things because it's too expensive to check bags when he flies.

We would like our guests to have space when they come to visit, and we are also trying to downsize and declutter. We have told him this. We even resorted to mailing him back boxes of clothing, toiletries and other excessive amounts of his things to his home. This is making my husband upset when our son visits, and creating stress in our marriage as well.

— SON HAS BAGGAGE

DEAR SON HAS BAGGAGE: Offer your son a couple of alternatives. The first would be to clear the counter in the guest bathroom and put his toiletries into a dopp kit kept out of sight. He should leave no more than one drawer full of his underwear, socks, etc. in the bureau and three changes of clothes in the closet. Any other items he will need can be brought in a backpack that can be stowed under his seat during the flight. If he can't do that, then he should follow your example — mail his things to you, and mail them back to his home.

DEAR ABBY: I have celiac disease follow a strict diet.

My boss constantly harasses me for not eating any of the junk food he brings in. I decline politely, but he keeps coming at me insisting that "it's OK to eat" and says I should just eat it because it won't make me sick.

I have pulled him aside a couple of times to explain celiac disease and provided him with good articles about it, hoping that reading them would have a bigger impact than my explaining. He has made some comments about how his wife follows "fad diets,"

DEAR ABBY

and he thinks they are crazy. I have explained how a restricted diet is the only treatment for celiac disease, but he is unrelenting.

I don't know what my next step should be. I love my job, but this is getting in the way.

— UNSURE IN WYOMING

DEAR UNSURE: Your boss's behavior is beyond inappropriate. What he is doing could be considered bullying. The kind of stress your boss is creating makes people sick. If the harassment doesn't stop, talk to HR.

DEAR ABBY: We have a dear friend, a widower, whom we invite to dinner frequently because he is alone. Usually these invitations include other guests.

Our articulate friend has the most annoying habit of blowing his nose at the table into one of my cloth napkins. It is disgustin to me and to the other guests as well. What can I do to make him stop? I tried placing a small box of tissues next to his dinner plate, but he ignores them and uses his napkin anyway. I don't even like to re-use the napkin after it has been washed, particularly for guests.

— TURNED OFF

DEAR TURNED OFF: Because you tried the subtle approach and it didn't work, TELL this impolite widower that you placed the box of tissues near him so he would stop using your napkins as handkerchiefs. Frankly, it is considered rude to blow one's nose at the table at all because it tends to gross out the other diners.

Iraq is tested in era of climate change

By Philip Issa
The Associated Press

YOUSSIFIYAH, Iraq — After years of meager rains and scorching summers, the wettest winter in a generation has revived Iraq's rivers and filled its lakes, bringing relief to a country facing severe water challenges in the era of climate change.

The rains have restored freshwater marshes of southern Iraq — a region some scholars see as the biblical Garden of Eden — and transformed lands once parched for water into fields of grain and cereal.

But the deluge has also tested a country more familiar with droughts than downpours and raised questions about whether Iraq's 20th century infrastructure can adapt to an unpredictable, 21st century climate.

Swelled by local rains and snowmelt from Turkey and Iran, both the Tigris and Euphrates burst their banks and flooded plains and cities in Iraq, despite the country's networks of dams and canals. And despite a trend toward a hotter and drier climate, an unseasonably chilly April and high humidity damaged crops around Baghdad.

Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi called it imperative to revamp infrastructure and water policies to prepare for more extreme weather events, though the rains this year pose a policy dilemma as unpredictable climate stresses may lead to droughts and floods.

"This will be a very important lesson for us in the next year, and the coming years," Abdul-Mahdi said in April.

Outside the town of Buhriz in eastern Diyala province, where Sirwan River flows into Iraq from neighboring Iran, Nouri Kudaier waded through his waterlogged citrus grove to see what he could salvage of this season's harvest.

"We're asking for compensation from the government for the damage," Kudaier said. "It's our only source of livelihood."

Iraq has not seen as much precipitation in a single winter since 1988, according to the Ministry of Water Resources, which reported 47 billion cubic meters of water in the country's reservoirs. That's three times what was there at the same time last year, when water levels were so dire that the government banned farmers from growing seasonal crops during the summer.

In Youssifiyah, a farming region just south of Baghdad, canals that were empty last year are flush with water, and wells that were dug 79 feet deep now come up with water at a depth of just 20 feet.

Spring floods used to be common in Iraq. For millennia, farmers relied on the floods to inundate their fields and grow rice, wheat and other grains.

But the floods were unpredictable, and every so often the rivers would burst their banks in Baghdad and elsewhere, with calamitous results.

Modernization projects in the 20th century saw Iraq build dams along the Tigris and its tributaries, and canals to divert water. Upstream, Turkey, Iran and Syria did the same, and the inundations became a distant memory, especially as rising temperatures brought weaker rains and faster evaporation from lakes and reservoirs.

Last year, desperate shortages of clean water led residents to riot in Basra, Iraq's main oil hub and its largest city in the south. The flow of the Euphrates and Tigris grew so weak that creeping seawater from the Persian Gulf reached the Chibayish freshwater marshes about 112 miles upstream, contaminating them with salt.

This year, that won't be a problem, said the head of Basra's provincial council — the revived rivers flushed the salt away and filled the marshes with fresh water.

But securing water for future generations will depend on more than favorable weather, says Iraq's water resources minister, Jamal al-Adily.

It will require a collaborative effort between Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran, he said. Some 70% of Iraq's water flows from the three upstream countries, though no formal water sharing agreement exists between them.

"Iraqis have a right to water," al-Adily told The Associated Press. "The rivers were here before the borders."

With reservoirs flush with water, there may be no better time to start discussions in earnest.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said his country would soon send a special representative of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Baghdad to discuss water administration.

And as Iraq simultaneously plans to expand its own oil production, it has a vital resource to leverage in water negotiations. Turkey is expected to rebalance its oil supplies after the U.S. announced it was ending the waivers that have allowed Turkey to import oil from Iran despite sanctions imposed by Washington.

Iraq is one of Turkey's leading suppliers of crude oil, and the two countries already make approximately $10 billion in bilateral trade.

"Water should be a link to open trade between the two countries," said al-Adily. "Turkey will stand to benefit from cooperating with Iraq."

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weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	A starry night	Mostly sunny and warm	Mostly sunny and warm	Partly sunny	Sunshine and some clouds
Baker City	32	75 38	76 37	68 37	67 37
Comfort Index™	9	9	9	10	10
La Grande	38	72 42	74 40	67 40	65 40
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	10
Enterprise	35	69 39	70 37	64 37	62 37
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	10	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	63°	59°	62°
Low Wednesday	18°	23°	24°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.04	0.06	0.07
Year to date	4.47	7.22	16.79
Normal year to date	3.09	5.87	9.76

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	30%
Afternoon wind	NW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	12.1
Evapotranspiration	0.19
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)	
Phillips Reservoir	51% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	97% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	91% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	99% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	93% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	106% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	7680 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	229 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	199 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	400 cfs
Minam River at Minam	776 cfs
Powder River near Richland	440 cfs

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 100°	Laredo, Texas
Low: 3°	Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.
Wettest: 3.25"	Mount Ida, Ark.
OREGON	
High: 73°	Hermiston
Low: 16°	Burns
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY

Ronald Reagan's horse in the T.V. series "Death Valley Days," Sinbad the Sailor, was struck and killed by lightning on May 3, 1982, at Kanab, Utah.

SUN & MOON

	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	5:39 a.m.	5:37 a.m.
Sunset	8:01 p.m.	8:02 p.m.
Moonrise	5:30 a.m.	5:56 a.m.
Moonset	6:48 p.m.	7:55 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New	First	Full	Last
May 4	May 11	May 18	May 26

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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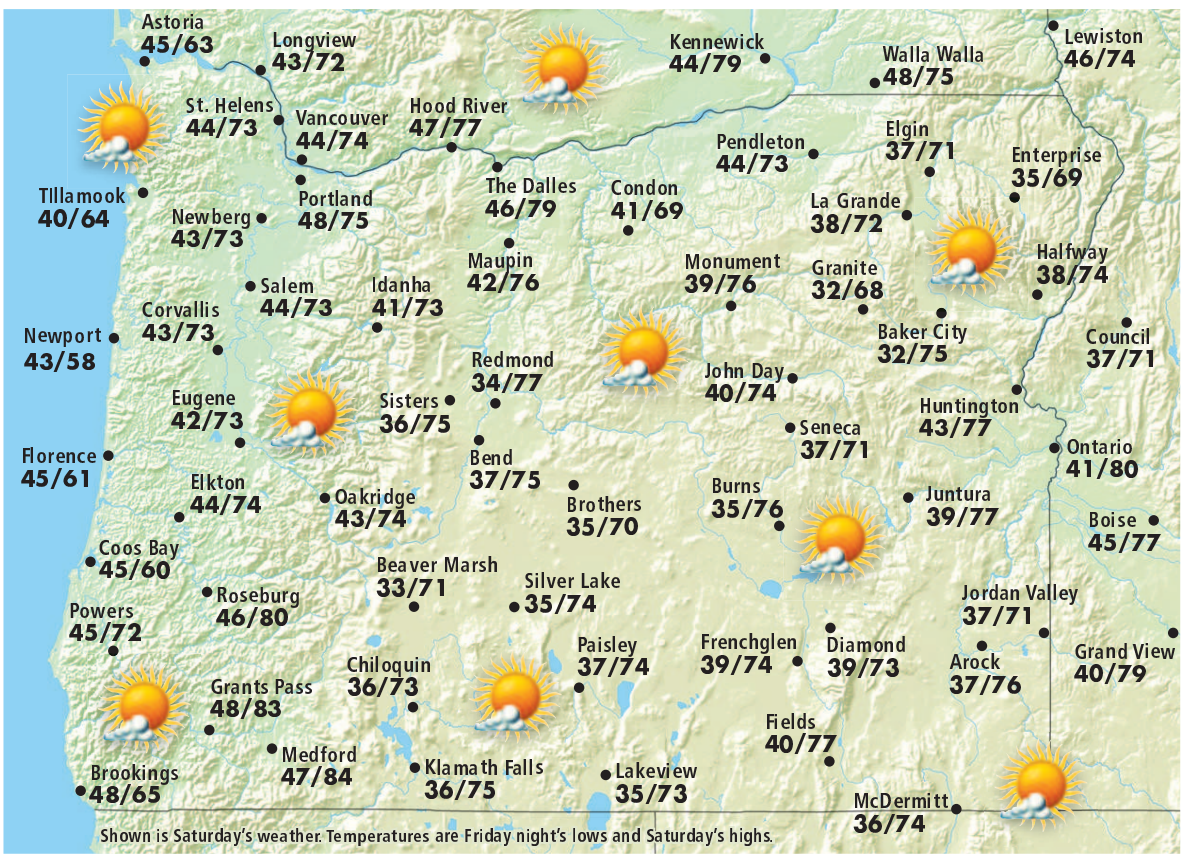

REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	City	SAT. Hi/Lo/W	SUN. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	63/46/s	60/45/s	Lewiston	74/50/s	77/49/pc
Bend	75/40/s	74/35/s	Longview	72/45/s	66/43/s
Boise	77/48/s	79/49/s	Meacham	69/39/s	70/38/s
Brookings	65/47/s	63/46/s	Medford	84/50/s	81/46/s
Burns	76/40/s	76/39/s	Newport	58/45/s	57/45/s
Coos Bay	60/47/s	59/45/s	Olympia	71/42/s	70/41/s
Corvallis	73/46/s	73/41/s	Ontario	80/48/s	82/51/s
Council	71/41/s	74/41/s	Pasco	82/50/s	87/52/s
Elgin	71/41/s	73/40/s	Pendleton	73/49/s	76/46/s
Eugene	73/46/s	75/41/s	Portland	75/51/s	73/49/s
Hermiston	78/51/s	82/50/s	Powers	72/46/s	69/41/s
Hood River	77/51/s	75/47/s	Redmond	77/39/s	78/36/s
Imnaha	74/47/s	77/47/pc	Roseburg	80/50/s	79/44/s
John Day	74/42/s	74/40/s	Salem	73/46/s	73/42/s
Joseph	69/38/s	70/36/s	Spokane	70/48/pc	72/47/pc
Kennewick	79/49/s	83/51/s	The Dalles	79/49/s	79/46/s
Klamath Falls	75/39/s	75/36/s	Ukiah	69/37/s	70/35/s
Lakeview	73/39/s	74/37/s	Walla Walla	75/54/s	79/50/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
Mostly sunny
47 30

MT. EMILY REC.
Mostly sunny
58 38

EAGLE CAP WILD.
Mostly sunny
55 28

WALLOWA LAKE
Mostly sunny; nice
69 38

THIEF VALLEY RES.
Mostly sunny; warm
75 38

PHILLIPS LAKE
Mostly sunny; mild
70 36

BROWNLEE RES.
Mostly sunny; nice
76 43

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Mostly sunny; nice
65 34

MCKAY RESERVOIR
Mostly sunny
73 48

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Mostly sunny; warm
72 42

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