

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Two skiers defy death in Yosemite descent

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Two skiers navigated a thin layer of snow with no margin for error down the precipitous shoulder of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park and alternately skied and rappelled back to the valley floor in a daring feat.

Jason Torlano, 45, and Zach Milligan, 40, completed the descent in five hours Feb. 21 by carving their way in crusty snow and using ropes to rappel several sections of bare rock known as the “death slabs” beneath the iconic face of Half Dome, the Fresno Bee reported Feb. 25.

Snowboarder Jim Zellers is believed to be the first to descend the 800-foot upper section on the shoulder of the dome in 2000. But no one is known to have attempted the entire 4,800-foot descent from peak to valley.

Torlano said he had been dreaming about skiing the dome since his family moved to Yosemite when he was 5. He first climbed Half Dome as a youngster, clinging to the same cables tens of thousands of visitors do every year to ascend the final steep pitch up the rounded side of the polished granite feature. He advanced to become one of an elite group of climbers to scale the sheer granite



Jason Torlano via AP

Jason Torlano poses with his friend, Zach Milligan, right, on Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, California, on Feb. 21.

face using ropes only to catch his fall at least a dozen times. He later became a ranger in the park.

“It’s just always been there,” Torlano told the San Francisco Chronicle. “I’ve been attracted to Half Dome for as long as I can remember.”

After also serving a stint in the U.S. Army, he settled down with his wife and children in a community near Yosemite. He specializes in using ropes to work in high-altitude and dangerous settings.

He said he tried to ski down Half Dome each of the past three years, but called it off after finding unsuitable snow. This year, an early February storm filled Yosemite with fresh powder, including about

2-3 inches of snow at the peak of Half Dome.

He rented a friend’s small plane Feb. 19 to study the snow conditions and possible route before calling Milligan, a rock climbing buddy, to join him.

Milligan said he initially planned to only film Torlano skiing, but decided to make his own descent on skis. He said things turned dangerous when he skied over part of one of the cables and lost control before he used an ice ax to stop his slide and was able to right himself.

“I was just trying to stay in control and stay alive,” Milligan said. “You’re on that spine and you don’t have a lot of room for error.”

— Associated Press

‘Helpful’ husband is caught twice with younger women

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 26 years. Five years ago, my husband gave a young lady \$5,000 through credit card charges over a six-month period. We are not wealthy. When I found the charges in our credit report, he took a second job to pay it off.

I don’t think their relationship was sexual because he is impotent. It was hurtful. While he was taking this young lady shopping, he told me he was at work.

Recently, I (accidentally) caught him going to another young lady’s apartment to help her with things like hanging a TV. I don’t care if he helps people. What I DO care about is his sneaking around to do it. I have tried talking to him about why he feels he needs to sneak. He has no answer. What makes men sneak?

— DECEIVED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR DECEIVED: Your husband may fear your disapproval of his relationships — however platonic they may be — with these younger women. What makes people of both genders sneak, by the way, is usually a sense of guilt.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, my 33-year-old son, his girlfriend and their 4-year-old son all live with me. They are expecting their second child. I own the home and pay all

the bills (utilities, phone, food, etc.). The problem is, my kids don’t like my boyfriend. His grandkids call me Grandpa, so I would like my grandkids to call him Grandpa. My son and his girlfriend won’t allow their son to do it. They insist on calling him by his first name.

I asked for a compromise and to call him Uncle. They refuse and say he didn’t “earn” that name. I said it’s just teaching the children to respect their elders. When I grew up and when I raised my son, we called older people Auntie and Uncle. I’m not sure what to do because we all live in the same house, and I would like all of us to get along.

— WISHING FOR RESPECT IN HAWAII

DEAR WISHING: You may have taught your son to respect his elders when he was growing up, but it appears he has had a serious memory lapse. Shame on him.

Because you foot all of the bills for the roof over his and his family’s heads as well as the food in their mouths, remind him that you are the head of that household, and you will not have anyone with whom you are involved disrespected. As it stands, you and your boyfriend are being disrespected, so as head of the household, please assert yourself.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Partly cloudy	Times of sun and clouds	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Showers possible
Baker City	25	45 24	50 29	51 32	49 29
La Grande	31	47 28	50 36	49 37	50 34
Enterprise	27	50 24	51 33	52 35	47 35

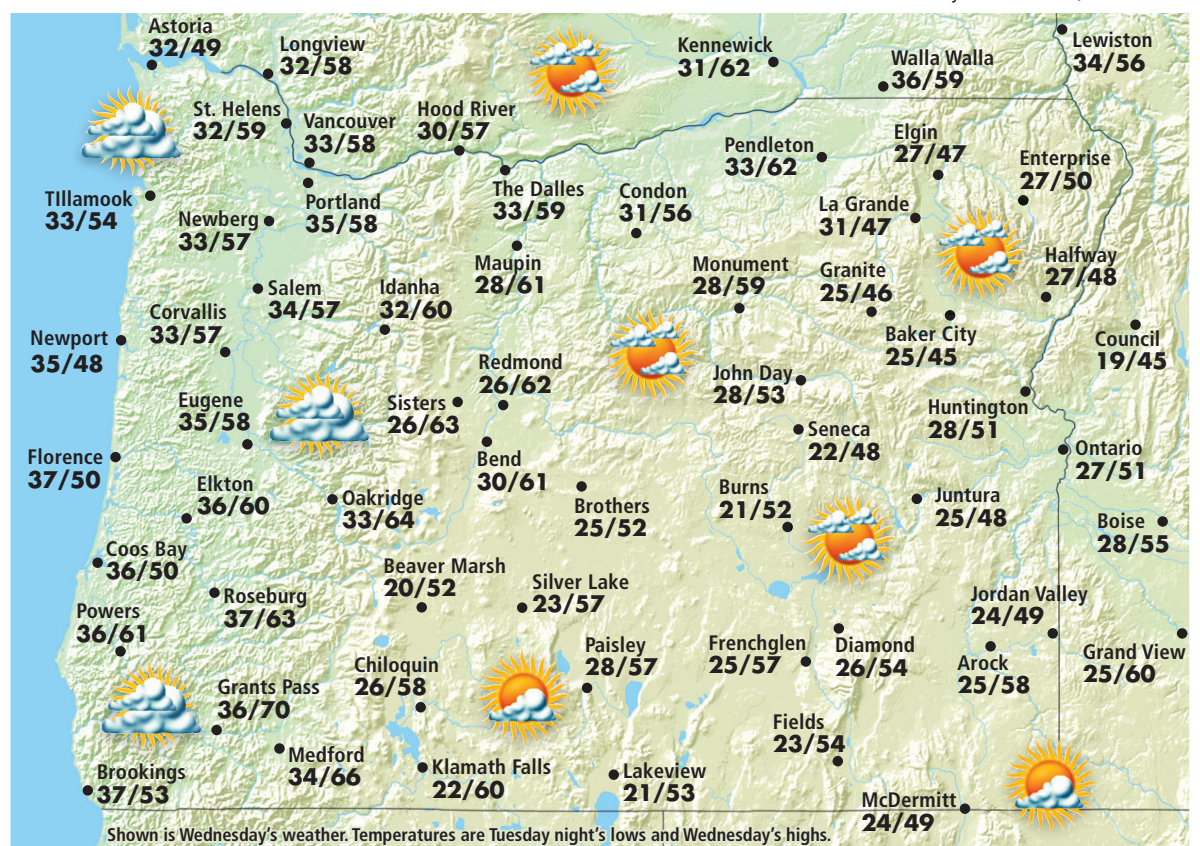
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC		SUNDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES	Baker City 40° La Grande 39° Elgin 40°	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 91° Low: -22°
PRECIPITATION (inches)	Sunday 0.00 Month to date 0.58 Normal month to date 0.58 Year to date 0.95 Normal year to date 1.38	Wettest: 5.41" Wettest: 0.01"	Wettest: 5.41" Wettest: 0.01"

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	
HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY	Lowest relative humidity 40%
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)	Phillips Reservoir 10% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)	Grande Ronde at Troy 2180 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY	
SUN & MOON	TUE. WED.
Sunrise 6:29 a.m.	6:27 a.m.
Sunset 5:41 p.m.	5:42 p.m.
Moonrise 10:10 p.m.	11:29 p.m.
Moonset 8:28 a.m.	8:54 a.m.

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY	
City	WED. HI/Lo/W	City	WED. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	49/36/pc	Lewiston	56/34/pc
Bend	61/30/s	Longview	58/33/pc
Boise	55/30/s	Medford	66/33/s
Brookings	53/39/s	Newport	48/38/pc
Burns	52/23/s	Olympia	55/34/pc
Coos Bay	50/35/pc	Ontario	51/28/pc
Corvallis	57/33/pc	Pasco	58/31/s
Council	45/22/s	Pendleton	62/32/s
Elgin	47/25/pc	Portland	58/37/pc
Eugene	58/36/pc	Powers	61/36/pc
Hermiston	65/33/s	Redmond	62/28/s
Hood River	57/33/pc	Roseburg	63/37/pc
Imnaha	52/28/pc	Salem	57/35/pc
John Day	53/27/pc	Spokane	53/29/pc
Joseph	49/27/pc	The Dalles	59/35/s
Kennewick	62/32/s	Ukiah	52/24/pc
Klamath Falls	60/23/s	Walla Walla	59/35/pc
Lakeview	53/24/s		

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