

Man's bisexual past gnaws at woman's sense of trust

DEAR ABBY: I am a 49-year-old woman who has been in a romantic relationship with a good, caring man for two years. We live together, and he shows me all the time how much he loves me. We have amazing chemistry and are very affectionate. We enjoy spending time together, especially outdoors.



DEAR ABBY

When we first started dating, he told me he was bisexual and had had relationships with men. He insists I am his true love and he is with only me now. He has never shown signs of straying, but sometimes I get insecure and wonder if I should take him at

his word that he only wants me. Should I trust him?

— WANTS TO BE SURE IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR WANTS: This man has been upfront with you. Because someone finds members of both genders attractive does not mean the person is incapable of monogamy. During the last two years, he has given you no reason to believe he is untrustworthy, so take steps to deal with your insecurity and take him at his word.

DEAR ABBY: My son and daughter-in-law — the parents of three minor children — were divorced in 2019. Prior to their

divorce, the ex-DIL got pregnant by another man. She has since had a little girl. My dilemma is, do I include the new little girl when they come to visit Grandma? She is still my grandchildren's half-sister. As they get older and come to visit me, I would feel bad leaving her out of events.

My son is livid that I would even consider including her. Her other grandparents refuse to have anything to do with her. How do I deal with this?

— DILEMMA IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DILEMMA: You have a loving heart. I assume all the children live together with their mother. To exclude their half-sister would be logistically difficult and cruel to a child who is

blameless. Your son may not like the situation, but it is time for him to grow up and face reality. You are the only grandmother that child has ever known, so remain calm, assert your right to self-determination and refuse to allow yourself to be bullied or intimidated.

DEAR ABBY: Unfortunately, I am not in the same income bracket as my family and some of my friends. Also, I married a guy who doesn't like to socialize because he's a recovering alcoholic, and he also has hearing problems. Family and friends rarely ask us to join them when they go out, but they never fail to call and tell me all about the great time they had and where they plan to go next.

It hurts, and I resent them for it. I want to be happy for them and not feel the way I do. Help!

— DIFFERENT IN NEW YORK

DEAR DIFFERENT: Your husband may have hearing problems, but your relatives appear to be tone deaf in the sensitivity department. What they are doing is cruel.

Rather than compare your life to that of friends and relatives who have more freedom to socialize than you and your husband do, it would be more constructive to figure out what you CAN do. Socialize either with others or by yourselves in places that don't serve alcohol and aren't overly noisy. Ask your relatives to join you there — and put the ball in their court.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Southern freeze pummeled bats, birds, other wildlife

DALLAS — As many people in the southern U.S. hosted neighbors who had no heat or water during the vicious February storm and deep freeze, Kate Rugroden provided a refuge for shell-shocked bats.

Starving and disoriented, the winged mammals tumbled to the snow-coated ground as temperatures plunged to levels rarely seen in the region.

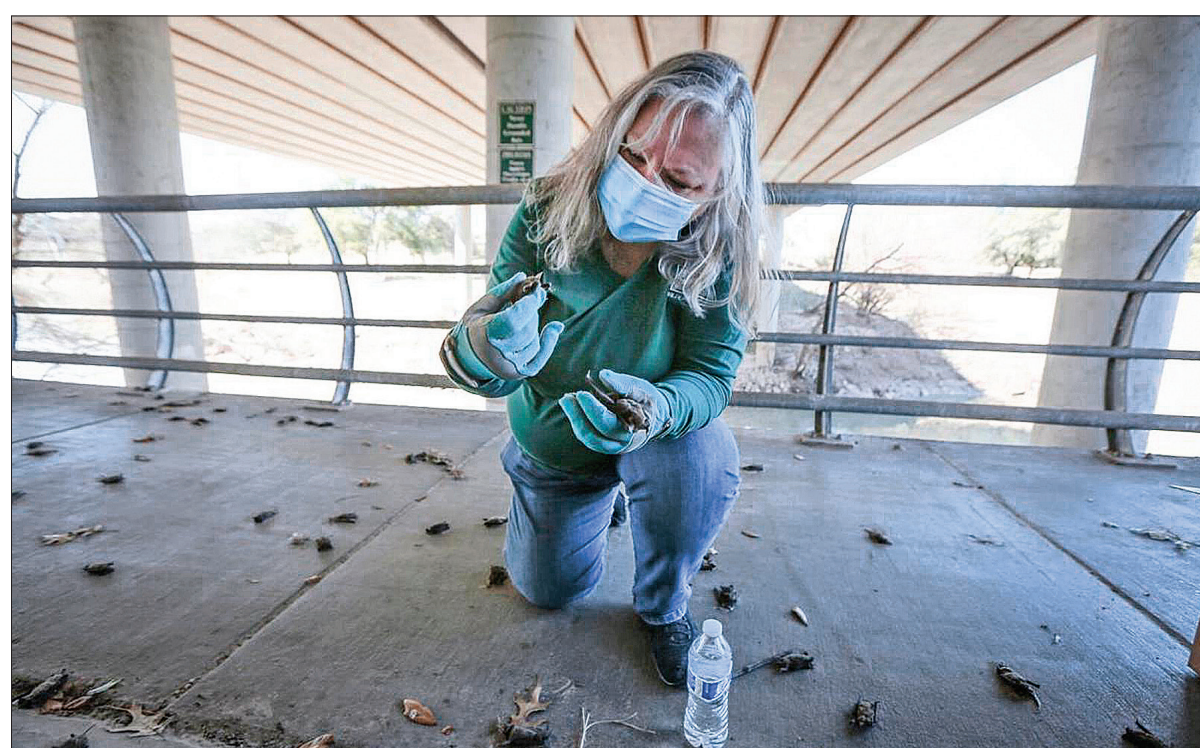
"They burned through their energy reserves as they tried to wake up and get away from the cold and ice," said Rugroden, of Arlington, Texas, one of numerous rehabilitation specialists nursing stranded bats plucked up by sympathetic people. "And there aren't any insects out there for them to eat yet."

Bats are among numerous wildlife believed to have taken a beating in the South, a region unaccustomed to such a severe and prolonged cold snap. Many species migrate there for winter precisely because of its normally mild weather.

It might take weeks or months to determine the extent of the harm, but anecdotal evidence is already turning up — including dead robins on yards and sidewalks.

Alligators in Oklahoma's Red Slough Wildlife Management Area were photographed with snouts protruding from frozen waterways — a survival maneuver enabling them to breathe while their bodies go dormant to conserve energy.

Fish kills were feared in Arkansas and Louisiana. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said it expected casualties among exotic deer and antelope. Across the Gulf of Mexico coast as far east as Florida, naturalists worried about monarch butterflies and the milkweed plants essential to their survival as they prepare to



Steve Gonzales/Houston Chronicle via AP

Diana Foss, Texas Parks and Wildlife urban wildlife biologist, attempts to find surviving Mexican Free-tailed bats Feb. 22, 2021, in a pile of dead bats at Waugh Drive in Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston, in the wake of the severe winter storm. Foss said the winter bat colony is about 100,000 and during the summer the colony has about 300,000 bats. She said they were able to find about 20 bats that fell from the bridge that still were alive.

migrate northward.

"Animals can respond to events like this by moving elsewhere, but if it's beyond your flight range or your walking range you have to hunker down," said Perry Barboza, a wildlife biologist at Texas A&M University. "Some animals like small birds can do it just a night or two. The duration becomes the killer."

Sea turtles stunned by frigid Gulf coastal waters still were being cared for at facilities last week. More than 10,600 had been found and officials were tabulating how many died, said Donna Shaver, Texas coordinator for the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network.

Sea Turtle Inc. took in so many that it used the South Padre Island Convention Center to accommodate the overflow, executive director Wendy Knight said.

"Our hospital is now completely

filled to the gills," Knight said.

Fish kills along the Texas coast were expected for recreational favorites such as spotted sea trout and red drum. In Louisiana, officials said it could take a week for dead fish to wash ashore.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission warned anglers to expect die-offs of threadfin shad, a primary food source for lake species such as bass, walleye and crappie.

While extreme weather is particularly dangerous for imperiled species, the whooping crane — listed by the federal government as endangered — appears to have weathered the storm, said Joe Saenz, manager of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

About 500 of the majestic birds spend winters at the refuge before returning to Canadian nesting grounds. During the cold spell,

some were spotted feasting on dead fish floating on the Gulf waters.

Biologists are concerned about monarch butterflies, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in December designated as a candidate for endangered or threatened status because of a sharp decline in recent decades.

The biggest monarch population winters in Mexican mountains and begins its northward trek in March. Had the cold spell happened a few weeks later, the orange-and-black butterflies could have been devastated, said Ray Moranz, an Oklahoma-based scientist.

They still might not escape unscathed. Some typically spend winters along the Gulf coast, where their odds during the deep freeze were poor, said Moranz, of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Another potential danger is to

milkweed, which provides spots for female monarchs to lay eggs and food for their larvae. If the plants' growth across the South is stunted, more young would not survive.

That situation underscores a hazard for wildlife across the region: Even those that made it through the freeze might see damaged habitat and less food.

In South Texas, bur clover, a winter weed crucial for deer in spring, was showing freeze burn.

Long-term, the biggest concerns are for birds and bats, both of which had absorbed heavy blows even before the storm.

Breeding bird populations in the U.S. and Canada have plummeted nearly 30 percent in the past 50 years — primarily because of habitat loss. Spring population counts will offer the first indication of how many succumbed to the cold, said Barboza of Texas A&M.

Migratory birds don't bother fattening up for winter because food in the South is plentiful, he said. During the storm, many probably burned through their meager energy reserves and died of exhaustion. About 20 dead brown pelicans were found on Texas' Chester Island.

Frozen songbirds were spotted on streets in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where temperatures plunged to minus-13 degrees during the storm.

Bats have their own challenges, including a fungal disease called white-nose syndrome that has killed millions. To those struggling to save them, every bat is precious. They eat huge numbers of insects that consume farm crops and carry diseases.

"We're seeing a large population hit," including migratory bats just arriving from Mexico, said Rugroden, the rehabilitation specialist. A well-known colony living in a Houston bridge appears to have taken big losses.

— Associated Press

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Mainly clear	Partly sunny	Rain and drizzle	Cloudy to partly sunny	Showers possible
Baker City	33	54 33	48 28	50 30	48 26
Comfort Index™	5	5	0	3	3
La Grande	43	51 36	45 30	49 34	46 30
Comfort Index™	7	5	0	3	2
Enterprise	40	53 33	41 27	45 33	40 30
Comfort Index™	8	5	0	8	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.

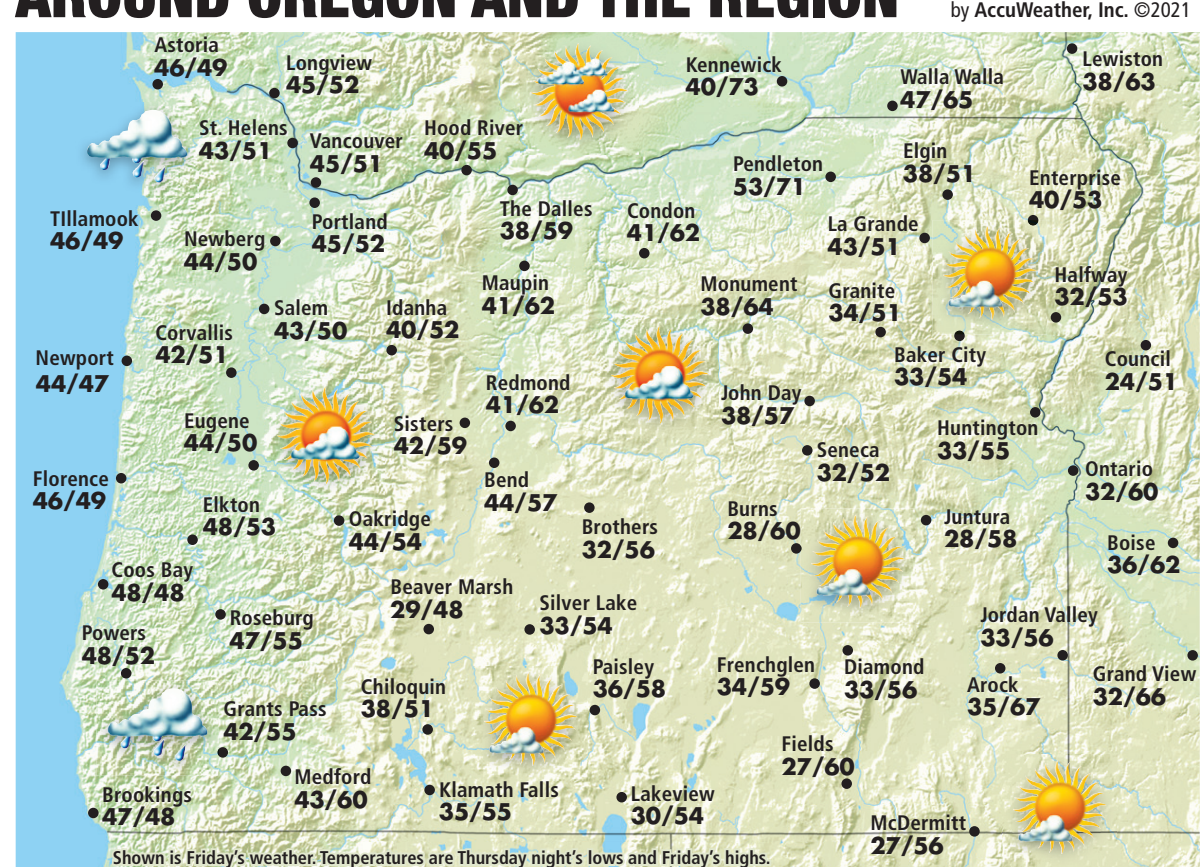
ALMANAC			
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Tuesday	52°	49°	51°
Low Tuesday	23°	32°	29°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.05	0.09	0.17
Year to date	0.95	5.03	11.93
Normal year to date	1.43	2.86	5.67

TUESDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 90°			Immokalee, Fla.
Low: -15°			Crested Butte, Colo.
Wettest: 2.14"			Albany, Ga.
OREGON			
High: 67°			Medford
Low: 17°			Klamath Falls
Wettest: Trace			North Bend

WEATHER HISTORY			
An area from New York to Vermont suffered one of its worst ice storms on record on March 4, 1991. Ice one inch thick accumulated between Buffalo and Rochester, snapping power lines and tree limbs.			
SUN & MOON			
Sunrise	6:25 a.m.	6:23 a.m.	
Sunset	5:44 p.m.	5:45 p.m.	
Moonrise	none	12:46 a.m.	
Moonset	9:25 a.m.	10:01 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
Last	New	First	Full
Mar 5	Mar 13	Mar 21	Mar 28

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES			
	FRI.	SAT.	
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City
Astoria	49/38/r	50/41/pc	Lewiston
Bend	57/32/r	51/29/pc	Longview
Boise	62/42/s	53/33/pc	Meacham
Brookings	48/38/r	49/39/pc	Medford
Burns	60/30/pc	46/23/pc	Newport
Coos Bay	48/40/r	50/38/pc	Olympia
Corvallis	51/38/r	52/37/pc	Ontario
Elgin	51/30/s	45/29/c	Pasco
Eugene	51/35/s	45/30/r	Pendleton
Hermiston	74/43/pc	59/38/pc	Portland
Hood River	55/38/r	55/38/c	Powers
Imnaha	56/33/s	45/27/r	Redmond
John Day	57/33/pc	43/27/sn	Roseburg
Joseph	51/34/s	40/28/sn	Salem
Kennewick	73/43/pc	59/37/pc	Spokane
Klamath Falls	55/30/pc	44/24/pc	The Dalles
Lakeview	54/29/pc	44/21/sn	Ukiah
			Walla Walla

RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY			
ANTHONY LAKES	Breezy	36 19	PHILLIPS LAKE
MT. EMILY REC.	Mostly sunny	44 28	Sun and clouds
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Clouds and sun	38 28	BROWNLEE RES.
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly sunny	51 34	Partly sunny
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Breezy	54 33	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
			Partly sunny
			MCKAY RESERVOIR
			Partly sunny
			RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
			Partly sunny

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