

# Husband reveals a frighteningly short fuse



**DEAR ABBY**  
ADVICE

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been together 23 years. A few years ago, he told a friend of his he wasn't in love with or attracted to me. I'm the same 5-foot-6-inch, 135-pound woman he married. Recently, he has become increasingly short-tempered.

He gets angry at every driver on the road, he destroyed the vacuum when it stopped working and recently went after our 10-pound rescue dog for peeing when he yelled at him. I intervened when he started screaming

that he would kill the dog. He then turned on me, yelling and breaking things.

I've never seen him this angry, and I am afraid it's escalating and he will physically harm the dog or me. Is it time to leave? He's no longer the man I married. — Fearful in Texas

**Dear Fearful:** What you are describing is not normal behavior. Contact your doctor about the drastic change in your husband's personality because it could be symptomatic of a serious illness. After that, the next time he presents a physical danger, call the police and ensure your safety by leaving. And if you do, take your rescue dog with you.

**Dear Abby:** I am about to start my new college experience,

but I have a few concerns. I'm very picky, and I enjoy my alone time. I like to keep my space clean and tidy, and I'm afraid my roommate(s) will be slob and I'll end up cleaning up after them. I also need alone time so I can focus on myself to recoup after a long day. When I'm here at home I will usually do that in my bedroom. But if I have roommates, that will be difficult to do. I guess I'm asking how to find a happy medium so my roommates and I can be at peace at all times. — Wants To Prepare

**Dear Wants:** Because you didn't specify how many roommates you will be sharing your space with, I will assume there are more than one — which may place you in the minority. Be

open and honest with them about your desire for neatness and tidiness. They may not be as particular as you are, but it will provide you the opportunity to live with different kinds of people. As to the peace and quiet you crave, if adapting to each other's schedules isn't possible, consider heading to the library to find the peace and quiet you need. I wish you luck.

**Dear Abby:** I am retired, so I have free time on my hands. Recently, while doing a favor for a neighbor couple, I was standing on their porch when a board broke and one of my legs went through up to my thigh. They expressed concern at the time, and I told them I thought I was OK.

The next day, my knee and upper thigh were swollen and bruised. My leg is improving each day, and for that I'm thankful. This happened more than two weeks ago, and I have not gotten a phone call or anything else from these neighbors. Have people really gotten that insensitive, or am I making a big deal out of nothing? — Old School in Georgia

**Dear Old School:** No, you are not making a big deal out of nothing. And yes, some people have become that insensitive. The reason for your neighbors' silence may be lack of empathy, or it could be fear of a lawsuit. Or they may have thought it was unnecessary to check further because you said you were OK.

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

# Plague of ravenous, destructive mice tormenting Australians

The Associated Press

**BOGAN GATE, Australia** — At night, the floors of sheds vanish beneath carpets of scampering mice. Ceilings come alive with the sounds of scratching. One family blamed mice chewing electrical wires for their house burning down.

Vast tracts of land in Australia's New South Wales state are being threatened by a mouse plague that the state government describes as "absolutely unprecedented." Just how many millions of rodents have infested the agricultural plains across the state is guesswork.

"We're at a critical point now where if we don't significantly reduce the number of mice that are in plague proportions by spring, we are facing an absolute economic and social crisis in rural and regional New South Wales," Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said this month.

Bruce Barnes said he is taking a gamble by planting crops on his family farm near the central New South Wales town of Bogan Gate. "We just sow and hope," he said.

The risk is that the mice will maintain their numbers through the Southern Hemisphere winter and devour the wheat, barley and canola before it can be harvested.

NSW Farmers, the state's top agricultural association, predicts the plague will wipe more than \$775 million from the value of the winter crop.

The state government has ordered 1,320 gallons of the banned poison Bromadiolone from India. The federal government regulator has yet to approve emergency applications to use the poison on the perimeters of crops.



Rick Rycroft/The Associated Press

**Mice scurry around stored grain on a farm near Tottenham, Australia, on May 19, 2021. Vast tracts of land in Australia's New South Wales state are being threatened by a mouse plague the state government describes as "absolutely unprecedented." Just how many millions of rodents have infested the agricultural plains across the state is guesswork.**

Critics fear the poison will kill not only mice but also animals that feed on them, including wedge-tail eagles and family pets.

"We're having to go down this path because we need something that is super strength, the equivalent of napalm to just blast these mice into oblivion," Marshall said.

The plague is a cruel blow to farmers in Australia's most populous state who have been battered by fires, floods and pandemic disruptions in recent years, only to face the new scourge of the introduced house mouse, or *Mus musculus*.

The same government-commissioned advisers who have helped farmers cope with the drought, fire

and floods are returning to help people deal with the stresses of mice.

The worst comes after dark, when millions of mice that had been hiding and dormant during the day become active.

By day, the crisis is less apparent. Patches of road are dotted with squashed mice from the previous night, but birds soon take the carcasses away. Haystacks are disintegrating due to ravenous rodents that have burrowed deep inside. Upending a sheet of scrap metal lying in a paddock will send a dozen mice scurrying. The sidewalks are strewn with dead mice that have eaten poisonous bait.

But a constant, both day and

night, is the stench of mice urine and decaying flesh. The smell is people's greatest gripe.

"You deal with it all day. You're out baiting, trying your best to manage the situation, then come home and just the stench of dead mice," said Jason Conn, a fifth generation farmer near Wellington in central New South Wales.

"They're in the roof cavity of your house. If your house is not well sealed, they're in bed with you. People are getting bitten in bed," Conn said. "It doesn't relent, that's for sure."

Colin Tink estimated he drowned 7,500 mice in a single night last week in a trap he set with a cattle feeding bowl full of

water at his farm outside Dubbo.

"I thought I might get a couple of hundred. I didn't think I'd get 7,500," Tink said.

Barnes said mouse carcasses and excrement in roofs were polluting farmers' water tanks.

"People are getting sick from the water," he said.

The mice are already in Barnes' hay bales. He's battling them with zinc phosphide baits, the only legal chemical control for mice used in broad-scale agriculture in Australia. He's hoping that winter frosts will help contain the numbers.

Farmers like Barnes endured four lean years of drought before 2020 brought a good season as well as the worst flooding that some parts of New South Wales have seen in at least 50 years. But the pandemic brought a labor drought. Fruit was left to rot on trees because foreign backpackers who provide the seasonal workforce were absent.

Plagues seemingly appear from nowhere and often vanish just as fast.

Disease and a shortage of food are thought to trigger a dramatic population crash as mice feed on themselves, devouring the sick, weak and their own offspring.

Government researcher Steve Henry, whose agency is developing strategies to reduce the impact of mice on agriculture, said it is too early to predict what damage will occur by spring.

He travels across the state holding community meetings, sometimes twice a day, to discuss the mice problem.

"People are fatigued from dealing with the mice," Henry said.

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# weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Mainly clear and mild	Mostly sunny and warm	Sunny and cooler	Abundant sunshine	Partly sunny
<b>Baker City</b>	55	84 48	73 38	74 39	69 38
Comfort Index™	4	6	10	10	9
<b>La Grande</b>	57	84 50	70 42	69 41	67 42
Comfort Index™	4	6	10	10	9
<b>Enterprise</b>	52	83 47	68 38	69 40	64 40
Comfort Index™	4	6	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 Tuesday	86°	89°	96°
Low Tuesday	42°	45°	46°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.00	0.00
Normal month to date	0.05	0.06	0.07
Year to date	2.23	5.90	14.21
Normal year to date	4.58	7.86	11.99

### TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	OREGON
High: 115° Death Valley, Calif.	High: 103° The Dalles
Low: 21° Burgess Junction, Wyo.	Low: 40° Meacham
Wettest: 2.37" McAllen, Texas	Wettest: none

### WEATHER HISTORY

Charlotte, N.C., was swamped by 3.78 inches of rain on June 3, 1909 -- the greatest amount recorded there in one day for decades. The storm represented almost a month's worth of rain for Charlotte.

### SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	5:07 a.m.	5:06 a.m.
Sunset	8:35 p.m.	8:36 p.m.
Moonrise	2:23 a.m.	2:42 a.m.
Moonset	2:00 p.m.	3:03 p.m.

MOON PHASES	THU.	FRI.
New	Jun 10	Jun 17
First	Jun 17	Jun 24
Full	Jun 24	Jul 1
Last	Jul 1	Jul 8

### AGRICULTURAL INFO.

#### CLIMATE INFORMATION FRIDAY

Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	NW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	5.6
Evapotranspiration	0.27

#### RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)

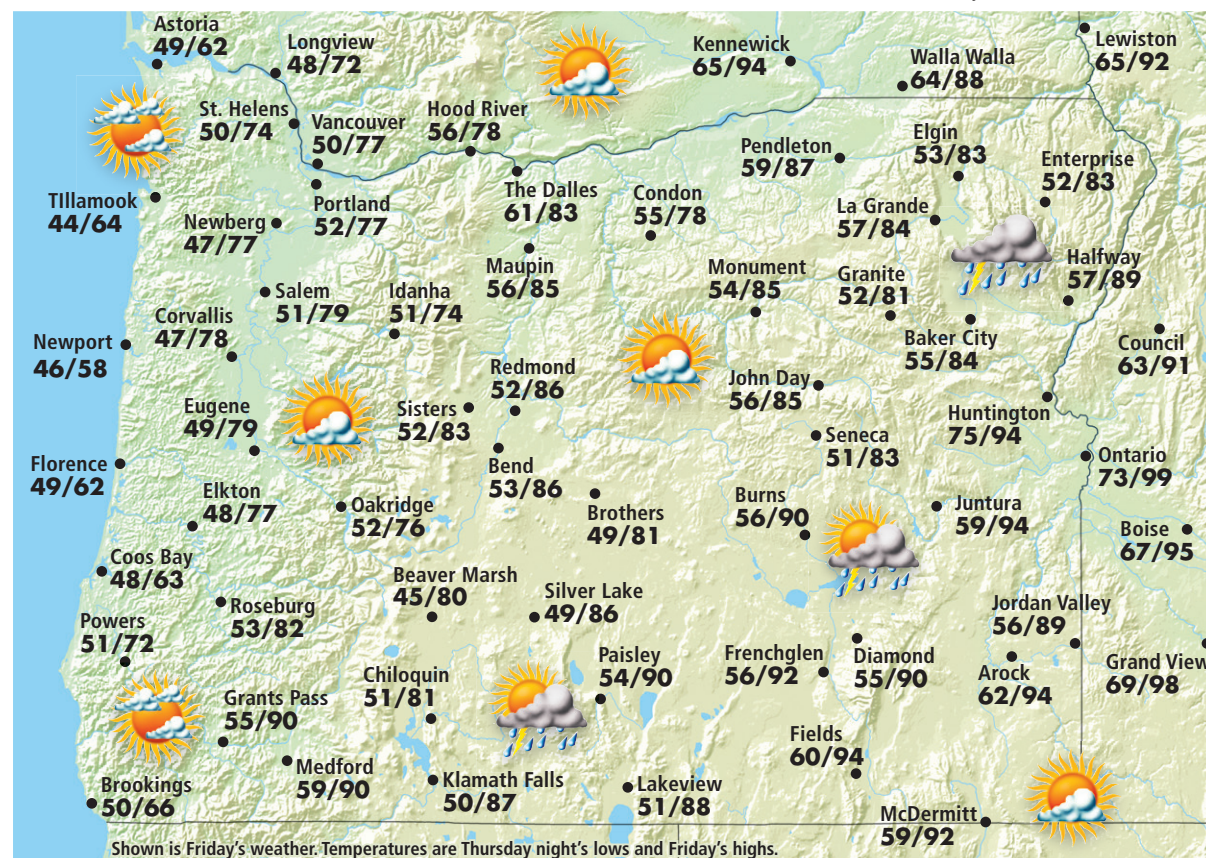
Phillips Reservoir	17% of capacity
Jinity Reservoir	88% of capacity
Jayhew Reservoir	49% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	97% of capacity
Vallowa Lake	55% of capacity
Chief Valley Reservoir	88% of capacity

#### STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	5690 cfs
Chief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	93 cfs
Jurnt River near Unity	120 cfs
Jmatilla River near Gibbon	179 cfs
Minam River at Minam	2210 cfs
Powder River near Richland	27 cfs

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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### REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI.		SAT.	
	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W	HI/LO/W
Astoria	62/51/pc	60/48/sh	Lewiston	92/56/s
Bend	86/49/pc	72/40/s	Longview	72/51/pc
Boise	95/63/s	85/50/s	Meacham	81/48/s
Brookings	66/49/pc	65/47/s	Medford	90/53/pc
Burns	90/47/s	78/38/s	Newport	58/48/pc
Coos Bay	63/46/pc	61/44/pc	Olympia	69/50/pc
Corvallis	78/46/pc	68/44/c	Ontario	99/64/s
Council	91/52/s	79/43/s	Pasco	91/56/s
Elgin	83/47/s	68/38/s	Pendleton	87/53/s
Eugene	79/48/pc	71/44/c	Portland	77/53/pc
Hermiston	89/60/s	75/51/s	Portland	72/49/pc
Hood River	78/56/s	68/50/c	Redmond	86/45/s
Imnaha	85/49/s	76/43/s	Roseburg	82/49/pc
John Day	85/46/s	75/41/s	Salem	79/51/pc
Joseph	83/47/s	69/37/s	Spokane	83/54/s
Kennewick	94/59/s	78/51/s	The Dalles	83/56/s
Klamath Falls	87/44/pc	77/41/s	Ukiah	81/40/s
Lakeview	88/47/pc	80/41/pc	Walla Walla	88/56/s

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

### RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY

CITY	FRI.	SAT.	FORECAST
ANTHONY LAKES	60	41	Mostly sunny
PHILLIPS LAKE	83	47	Very warm
MT. EMILY REC.	70	47	Mostly sunny; nice
BROWNLEE RES.	92	55	Mostly sunny
EAGLE CAP WILD.	68	37	Mostly sunny; mild
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	76	40	Mostly sunny; warm
WALLOWA LAKE	83	47	Very warm
MCKAY RESERVOIR	86	51	Mostly sunny; warm
THIEF VALLEY RES.	84	48	Mostly sunny; warm
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	84	50	Mostly sunny; warm