

Half-sister's appearance brings back bad memories



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I was contacted by a half-sister I'll call "Shyla," who my mother placed for adoption at birth. My mother passed away five years ago. She was a horrible mother who physically, verbally and emotionally abused my brother and me. Giving Shyla up was the best thing she ever did. I have spent years in therapy to work through my painful childhood.

Shyla barreled in like a train. I was honest with her about our mother and how I grew up. But

Shyla wants me to visit her and video-call her like we are close. When she asks questions about my mother, I'm honest because I refuse to create a person who didn't exist. The woman was a monster.

I do not want a relationship with this sister, or to have to talk about my abuser for the rest of my life. That chapter is closed. Shyla makes me feel horrible because I haven't met her yet. I don't want to meet her. Other adoptees I have spoken to chide me on this, saying Shyla "has a right" to her birth family. Advice, please. — **FREAKING OUT IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR FREAKING OUT: You have given your half-sister what information you could.

Regardless of what "other adoptees" are telling you, you are not obligated to have more contact with this half-sister than you are comfortable with. If she asks to meet again, tell her it has taken years of therapy to get past what was done to you and your brother, and that talking with her is bringing back all of that trauma, which is why you do not wish to have further contact with her. If she persists after that, block her.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 46-year-old widow. My husband of 18 years passed away 14 months ago. My three children from a previous marriage, which ended because of abuse, are adults. Two of them are still in the house, and one, my son

"Charlie," has serious health issues. My husband was sick for five years prior to his death.

Charlie gets upset when I talk about being interested in starting to date. He thinks I am going to abandon him again and that I should pay more attention to reconnecting with my children than trying to develop a new relationship. I don't see why I can't have both.

Charlie refuses to leave the house, so taking him out to do things is not an option. I don't think he loves me; I feel he just wants to control me. My other children are supportive, but they are independent. Am I wrong for wanting to pursue life outside my home and grown children? — **ATTEMPTING**

TO GO FORWARD

DEAR ATTEMPTING: You aren't wrong for wanting companionship, and I'm not referring to the kind you can get from your children. If Charlie is unable to live independently and needs constant supervision, you should be discussing options for him such as respite care, so you can have a break.

Because you mentioned that he has serious health issues, what are the plans for him if you should predecease him? This is an issue that should be hashed out before there is a crisis, so there will be no surprises and Charlie can be reassured, which may allay his fears and help him to become less needy.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Crews rescue 21 people on stuck tram cars in New Mexico

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico search and rescue crews used ropes and helicopters Saturday, Jan. 1, to rescue 21 people who were stranded overnight in two tram cars after an iced-over cable caused the cars to get stuck high up in the Sandia Mountains overlooking Albuquerque.

Lt. Robert Arguelles a Bernalillo County Fire Department spokesperson, said that crews

first rescued 20 people stranded in one car and several hours later rescued a 21st person stranded by themselves in a second car.

All the people on the two cars were employees of the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway or a mountaintop restaurant, and the 20 in one car were being ferried down to the base of the mountains at the end of their workdays, Arguelles said.

The other employee had been heading up the mountain to provide overnight security when the tram system shut down Dec. 31

due to icing, Arguelles said.

There were no reported injuries among those stranded, Arguelles said. "More just pretty frustrated."

To rescue the 20 people in the one car, operators were able to move it to a nearby support tower more than halfway up the mountain, and search and rescue personnel early Jan. 1 hiked to the area and climbed the tower to deliver blankets and other supplies to those inside the heated car, Arguelles said.

Search and rescue personnel

over several hours used ropes and other equipment to lower the stranded employees about 85 feet to the ground before escorting them to a nearby landing zone in the steep and rocky terrain where the tower was located, Arguelles said.

The 20 people were then ferried by helicopter several at a time to the base of the mountains, he said.

Arguelles said the second car with the one employee aboard was higher up the mountain and at location where the car was too

high above the ground to lower people by ropes.

But the tram system was able to inch the second car down the cable to the rescue site at the support tower, and rescuers then used ropes to lower the 21st person as was done with the others, Arguelles said.

Brian Coon, a tramway system manager, said there was an unusually fast accumulation of ice on one of the cables that made it droop below the tram, making it dangerous to keep going, KOB-TV reported.

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weather

	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Intermittent snow, 2-4"	A bit of morning snow	Snow and rain, 2-4"	Cloudy with a little snow	Times of clouds and sun	
Baker City	25	35 23	38 31	40 27	34 15
La Grande	30	32 27	38 37	42 31	42 26
Enterprise	26	29 22	41 34	40 30	39 26

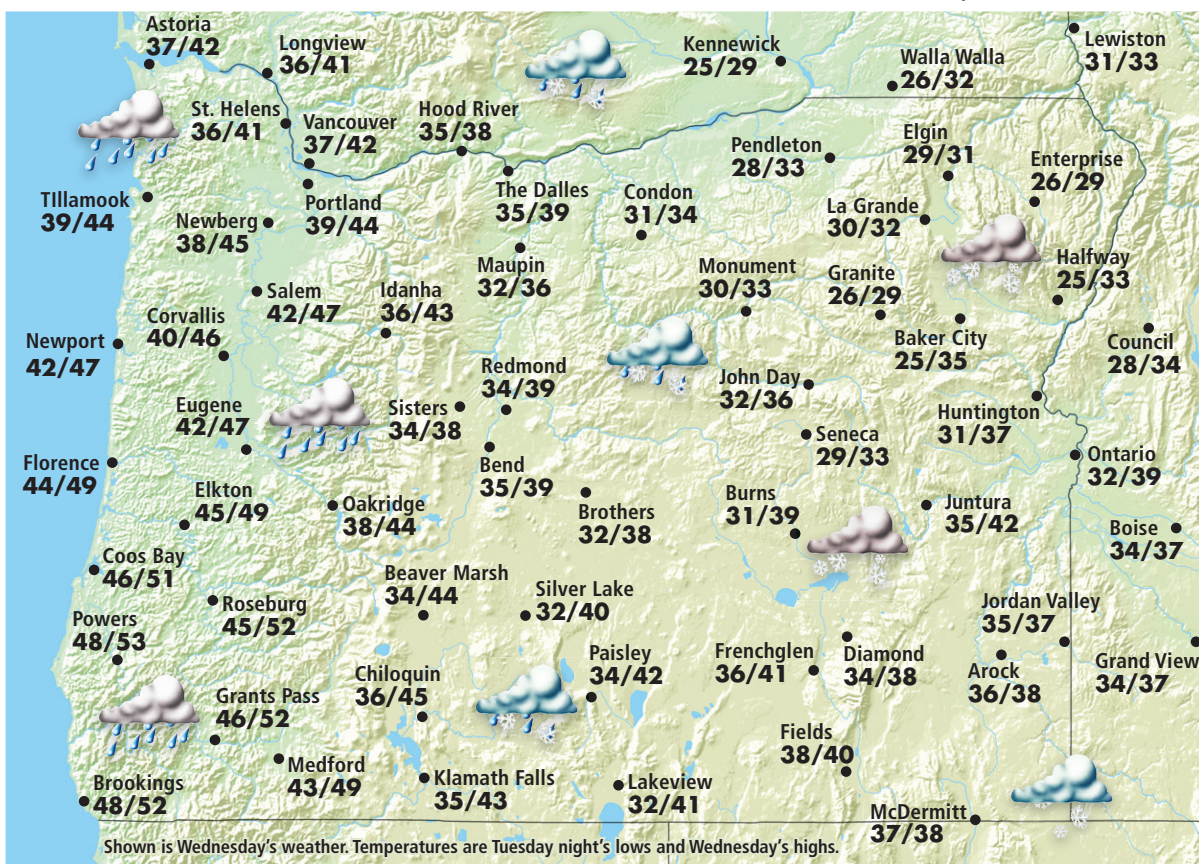
Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC		SUNDAY EXTREMES	
TEMPERATURES			
High Sunday	19°	24°	23°
Low Sunday	0°	17°	16°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	0.00	Trace	0.00
Month to date	0.00	Trace	0.00
Normal month to date	0.05	0.11	0.21
Year to date	0.00	Trace	0.00
Normal year to date	0.05	0.11	0.21

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		WEATHER HISTORY	
HAY INFORMATION WEDNESDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	80%	A storm on Jan. 4, 1982, drenched San Francisco, Calif., with 12 inches of rain and dumped 10 feet of snow on Lake Tahoe in just two days. The extreme storminess was blamed on a strong El Niño.	
Afternoon wind	WSW at 3 to 6 mph		
Hours of sunshine	0.1		
Evapotranspiration	0.01		

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Monday)		SUN & MOON	
Phillips Reservoir	1% of capacity	Tue. Sunrise	7:32 a.m.
Jiny Reservoir	22% of capacity	Wed. Sunrise	7:32 a.m.
Jwyhee Reservoir	17% of capacity	Sunset	4:23 p.m.
Vickay Reservoir	17% of capacity	Moonrise	9:34 a.m.
Mallowa Lake	16% of capacity	Moonset	10:08 a.m.
Chief Valley Reservoir	19% of capacity		8:08 p.m.
MOON PHASES			
First	Full	Last	New
Jan 9	Jan 17	Jan 25	Jan 31

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST WEDNESDAY	
City	WED. HI/LO/W	THU. HI/LO/W	Activity
Astoria	42/38/r	50/43/r	Anthony Lakes: 22 17
Bend	39/35/r	45/41/r	MT. EMILY REC.: 26 20
Boise	37/32/sh	43/39/r	EAGLE CAP WILD.: 21 15
Brookings	52/48/r	52/45/r	WALLOWA LAKE: 31 22
Burns	39/31/sn	43/32/c	THIEF VALLEY RES.: 35 23
Coos Bay	51/50/r	56/49/r	PHILLIPS LAKE: 31 22
Corvallis	46/42/r	52/47/r	BROWNLEE RES.: 37 27
Council	34/24/sn	37/36/sn	EMIGRANT ST. PARK: 27 22
Elgin	31/24/sn	40/35/r	MCKAY RESERVOIR: 33 26
Eugene	47/44/r	54/49/r	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK: 32 27
Hermiston	35/23/c	37/34/i	
Hood River	38/32/r	41/39/r	
Imnaha	36/26/sn	40/38/sn	
John Day	36/29/sf	46/41/c	
Joseph	31/22/sn	40/33/sn	
Kennewick	29/23/c	37/33/sn	
Klamath Falls	43/36/c	43/35/c	
Lakeview	41/33/c	41/33/c	

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