

Daughter feels powerless to help aging father



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My dad, who is nearing 80, has been married to my stepmom, "Ruth," for nearly 35 years. She has always been temperamental and controlling to a degree, but during the last few years it has become abundantly clear that she's emotionally abusive to my dad.

Twenty years ago, I moved to another coast, and although Dad wanted to visit, the decision was always up to Ruth, so they never did. However, when it comes to her immediate family, Dad is

required to attend every event. During COVID I moved just a few states away, and that's when I got the full picture. Ruth took away Dad's cellphone and sold his car, so he is virtually stuck. She will not even let him mention purchasing a vehicle. He's an artist, and she never "allowed" him to get a studio.

The list is long, sad and frustrating. He forbids me to confront her, but it is giving me daily stress because I love my dad and I fear her control is something he has grown accustomed to.

Any advice? — **DISTRESSED DAUGHTER IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR DAUGHTER: As repugnant as the situation may be to you, I do not think you

should try to reduce your stress by creating more for your father. He has forbidden you from confronting his wife about her hypercontrolling behavior, and you should respect his wishes. I don't have to like it; you don't have to like it. But this is what your father has been willing to accept for the last 35 years. He and only he could have put a stop to it or left her if he had really wanted to.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a college student who broke up with my long-term high school boyfriend a few months ago. He was a cheating dirtbag, so I moved on quickly. I have been enjoying the single life, but now find myself in a bit of a love triangle.

"Derek" is blond and short, and loves to go to the gym. He's kind and attentive, and he seems to care very much for me. He invited me to his formal dance, but I turned him down because I didn't know him very well. He didn't take anyone else even though he had plenty of time to find a date. My friend at the dance said he didn't even talk to another girl, so I know he's very loyal already.

The other contender, "Shay," is taller and has dark hair. He has kind, blue eyes and a shy personality, although with me he really opens up and talks. He always checks in to see how I'm doing when I've had a rough day. In the simplest terms, he puts up with my nonsense. He has seen me at

some of my worst moments and still showed compassion.

I'm genuinely torn between these two and don't know how to choose because I don't want to lose either of them. What do I do? — **BOY CRAZY IN IOWA**

DEAR BOY CRAZY: I have good news. Because nowhere in your letter did you mention that either of these young men have asked you for an exclusive relationship, you do not "have" to make a difficult choice. Some people like both chocolate AND vanilla ice cream. I suggest you be honest with them and enjoy seeing them both until the answer to your question becomes obvious. (Feel free to write me again if you meet a handsome redhead.)

SNOW

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Less well studied than glaciers, snowpatches have nonetheless been researched in a fair number of far-flung places: from the Scottish Highlands to the Japanese Alps, from the High Atlas of North Africa to the High Arctic. The Wallowas — loftiest and snowiest range in Eastern Oregon, and bearing the heavy stamp of past glaciation — offer a prime location for similar investigations of these somewhat spectral phenomena.

As the seasonal snowpack melts off, snowfields persist in favorable niches. The most persistent often reveal topographic and microclimatic subtleties — special "topoclimates" — buffered from sunlight and heat, and/or nourished by especially deep accumulation of the white stuff. Those include leeward ridge brows where snow cornices, slabs, and pillows build up in winter from wind-drift, and the base of avalanche chutes where snowslides regularly rumble to rest.

The most obvious of these snowfield-supporting topoclimates are the shadowlands of north- and east-facing cirques, cast in the pall of ice-carved headwalls. The perennial Wallowa snowfields surviving here summon the ghosts of alpine glaciers that carved the range tens of thousands of years ago, scooping out bowls and hanging valleys, steepening canyon walls, sharpening mountain horns. Those vanished ice bodies, formed in cooler, wetter prehistoric times on auspicious aspects, enhanced the very shadow-climates



A fresh dusting of early fall snow on the perennial snowfield in the northeastern cirque of the Matterhorn in the Wallowa Mountains.

that helped produce them, leaving behind prime "habitat" for modern-day snowpatches.

Indeed, small glaciers were able to reform in those Pleistocene cirques and hollows in more recent millennia under favorable climate regimes. Some of the Wallowa snowfield sites I'm monitoring are those that the Oregon Glaciers Institute (with whom I'm collaborating on this project) identified — aided by local expertise — as likely holding glaciers well into the 20th century. That includes, but isn't limited to, the well-known ex-Benson Glacier above Glacier Lake. Last summer — that exceptionally dry summer of 2021, on the heels of spring drought and wracked by heatwaves — gaunt ice-patches lay exposed in those former glacier beds.

While the Wallowas don't support active glaciers any longer, persistent snowfields occupy something of a middle ground between snow and ice. Snow is in a constant state of flux. A long-lying snowfield, subjected to melt-freeze cycles and pressure compaction, transforms into a denser snow form known as firn —

German for "of last year," referencing snow that survives for more than one melt season (and maybe many of them). And some may contain a core of ice, blurring the line between snowpatch and what's known as a "glaciere." The so-called snowfields I'm monitoring also encompass firn- and ice-patches. But while such resilient snow, firn, and ice bodies are the primary focus, this work also considers shorter-lived features, such as more exposed or lower-elevation slopeside snowpatches and shaded forest snowbanks often holding out into early summer. Their seasonal layout and timetable are interesting to track in and of themselves. So are more general patterns of regional "snow-lie": the transient up-and-down snowline, the when and where of the last major dustings of spring and the first of fall.

Easy to overlook, our snowfields are also easy to take for granted. They recur on the landscape on a yearly basis, but never in exactly the same way, and changes to those patterns link to broader dynamics of snowcover and runoff. A

mountain snowpack disintegrating into snowpatches early in the season can foretell summer water stress. And if historically perennial snowfields begin disappearing more years than not — in other words, if they essentially turn into seasonal snowfields — that's an important shift in the watershed to be aware of.

We know that a reduced high-country snowpack, or one that melts away earlier in the year, has significant consequences for streamflow and water supply. Trends in the scanty and scattered year-round snow/firn features of the Wallowas and Blues are part of this big-picture story.

The Wallowa-Blue Mountain Snowfield Project will benefit greatly from local knowledge and many eyes on the ground. I hope to soon formalize a way for dayhikers, backpackers, hunters, and other folks to send in snowpatch observations and pics of their own to aid in the effort. And in the meantime, I'm working on compiling historic photos of regional snowfields, and trying to track down as many pictures of High Wallowa snow/ice features from the late summer and early fall of both 2021 and 2015 (another supremely dry year) as I can. If you have any you'd like to share — or, heck, any memories or images of where snow used to persist in the high Wallowas and Blues — feel free to get in touch at wallowa-snowfields@gmail.com.

■ *Ethan Shaw is an independent naturalist and freelance outdoors/natural-history writer based in Cove. He has a degree in Wildlife Ecology/Natural Resources and has been freelancing on both the research and writing fronts since 2009 (after a stint at The Observer).*

FISHING

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Pilcher Creek Reservoir

Reservoir is about half full. The boat ramp nearest the parking and camping areas is now usable and the other boat ramp is under water. Fishing will probably be best over the next couple months as long as the reservoir doesn't drain too low.

Phillips Reservoir

Reservoir has been stocked with trout throughout the spring. Flying ants recently have been common, and fishing with dry flies has been a good way to catch both rainbow trout and pikeminnows. Perch fishing has been slow, but some bank anglers have been catching perch. The reservoir is still

very low and is currently 14 percent full. This spring may have a small window when boats can launch, but access to launch a boat may become very difficult if the reservoir draws down much below current levels.

Malheur Reservoir

Holdover trout are available. Get out and enjoy this fishery while it lasts. The reservoir is currently quite low. Launching a boat may still be possible from the access road just north of the dam but the boat ramp is high and dry with a mud flat at the bottom where it's easy to get stuck.

Balm Creek Reservoir

Reservoir is about half full. It recently was stocked with fingerling trout. As they grow, they will become available for anglers.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Rain and drizzle	Mostly cloudy, downpours	A morning shower in spots	Mostly sunny	Clouds and sun
Baker City	49	65 43	62 38	69 43	72 46
La Grande	53	66 47	62 43	68 50	72 49
Enterprise	49	61 41	58 38	65 48	66 50

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 Thursday	78°	80°	85°
Low Thursday	47°	50°	51°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.21	0.09	0.06
Month to date	0.21	0.12	0.06
Normal month to date	0.09	0.11	0.16
Year to date	4.19	6.48	14.23
Normal year to date	4.43	8.80	12.84

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	60%		
Afternoon wind	S at 7 to 14 mph		
Hours of sunshine	0.0		
Evapotranspiration	0.11		

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)			
Phillips Reservoir	15% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	98% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	43% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	98% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	43% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	102% of capacity		

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	8430 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	222 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	82 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	438 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	2160 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	201 cfs		

THURSDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 108°	Ocotillo Wells, Calif.		
Low: 21°	Albany, Wyo.		
Wettest: 2.83"	Monticello, Ark.		

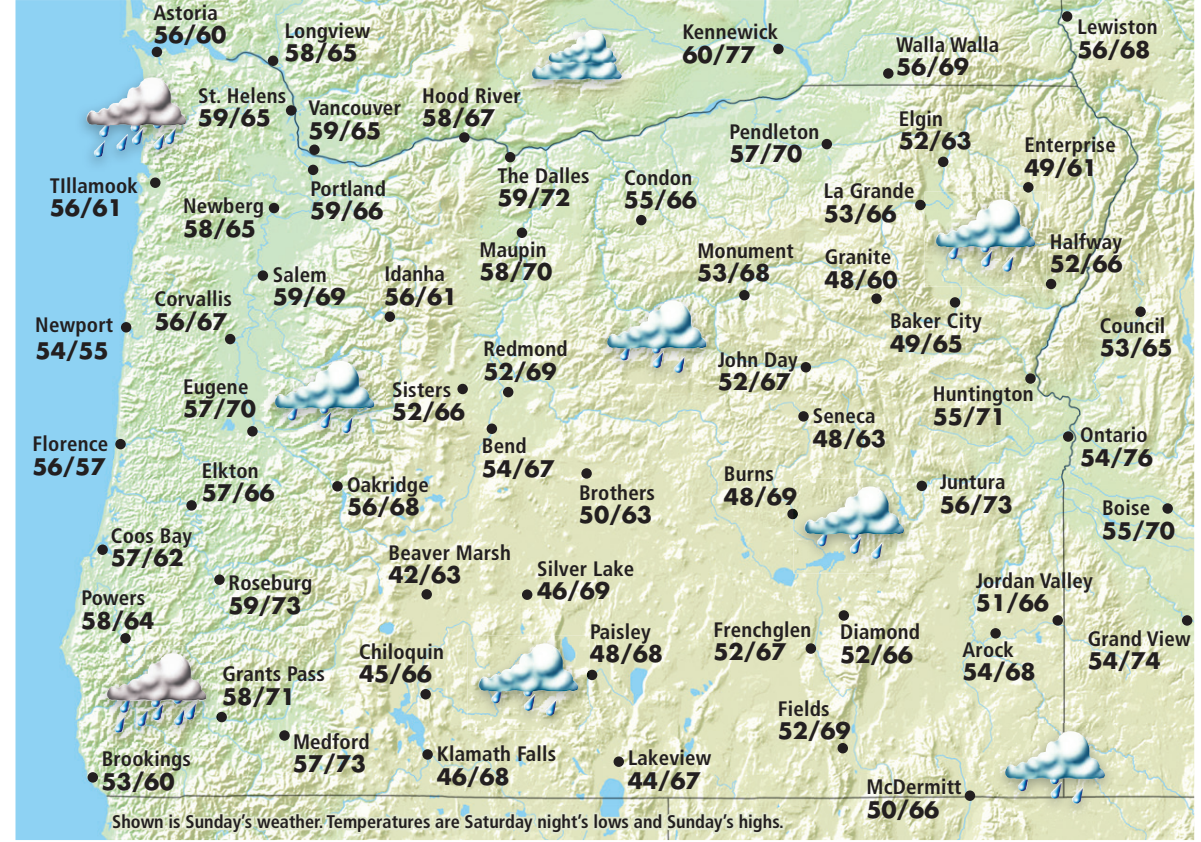
OREGON			
High: 88°	Ontario		
Low: 36°	Sunriver		
Wettest: 0.31"	Redmond		

WEATHER HISTORY			
High and low records were set on June 4, 1985. Williston, N.D., had a low of 31 that broke the record from 1910. Macon and Augusta, Ga., reached 100 degrees or higher.			

SUN & MOON			
SAT. SUN.			
Sunrise	5:06 a.m.	5:06 p.m.	
Sunset	8:35 p.m.	8:36 p.m.	
Moonrise	9:21 a.m.	10:27 a.m.	
Moonset	12:26 a.m.	12:55 a.m.	

MOON PHASES			
First	Full	Last	New
Jun 7	Jun 14	Jun 20	Jun 28

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES					
City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	60/50/sh	61/48/pc	Lewiston	68/54/sh	71/52/pc
Bend	67/44/c	66/42/pc	Longview	65/50/r	64/46/c
Boise	70/51/sh	72/48/pc	Meacham	63/46/sh	59/39/pc
Brookings	60/49/sh	62/48/pc	Newport	73/50/r	74/47/pc
Burns	69/40/sh	68/37/pc	Medford	55/49/sh	59/45/pc
Coos Bay	62/51/sh	62/44/pc	Olympia	63/48/r	63/46/c
Corvallis	67/50/r	66/45/c	Ontario	76/52/sh	77/50/pc
Council	65/48/sh	70/46/pc	Pasco	77/57/sh	76/51/pc
Elgin	63/44/sh	61/42/c	Pendleton	70/52/sh	68/51/pc
Eugene	70/51/r	70/46/c	Portland	66/54/r	66/50/c
Hermiston	75/55/sh	74/53/pc	Powers	64/50/sh	64/44/sh
Hood River	67/53/sh	69/47/pc	Redmond	69/44/sh	65/40/pc
Imnaha	67/50/sh	65/46/pc	Roseburg	73/54/sh	70/47/c
John Day	67/47/sh	64/40/pc	Salem	69/53/r	68/49/pc
Joseph	63/41/sh	58/37/pc	Spokane	62/48/sh	64/47/pc
Kennewick	77/57/sh	76/53/pc	The Dalles	72/54/sh	72/52/pc
Klamath Falls	68/36/r	67/36/pc	Ukiah	63/40/sh	58/37/sh
Lakeview	67/39/sh	68/35/pc	Walla Walla	69/52/sh	68/50/pc

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY					
ANTHONY LAKES	43	30	PHILLIPS LAKE	61	38
Cloudy, showers			Cloudy, showers		
MT. EMILY REC.	54	40	BROWNLEE RES.	69	50
Afternoon showers			Cloudy, showers		
EAGLE CAP WILD.	47	31	EMIGRANT ST. PARK	56	39
Cloudy, showers			Rainy times		
WALLOWA LAKE	63	41	MCKAY RESERVOIR	69	50
Cloudy, showers			Showers		
THIEF VALLEY RES.	65	43	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	66	47
Showers			Heavy showers		