

Christmas weekend might be cold, but no storms coming

Other than the holiday weather turning a little cold, it sounds like travel will be pretty easy for this holiday season. It's always good to hear that there aren't any major storms that will be heading for us during Christmas. I think my kids are going to observe Christmas with their families but there should be a few of them here for a day or so after Christmas.



Sally Michael
• Brewster Correspondent

on letting them have the last word. Just a few minutes ago, there was a news item that said another school has removed any hint of Christmas from their programs.

So, in spite of events taking a toll on my life, I do not want to take Christ out of Christmas.
So, to all of you, I wish you a very

Merry Christmas.
Coleen Crumrine had a nice early Christmas gift from her daughter, Carolyn Somers. The two ladies went to Denver on Friday, the 10th, and spent the weekend shopping and attending the Gaither Family Christmas held at the Pepsi Center. Coleen said it was a great experience and she will always cherish the memory of the wonderful music and program.

They also enjoyed having a meal at the Red Lobster, which is something she won't soon forget. So, Carolyn, I think you gave your mom just what she wanted.

There are many pretty decorations around town and it is a pleasure to see the bright lights. The Senior Center looks especially nice this year, with the handiwork of the 4-H group that decorated on the 1st. I don't know how many years they have performed this good deed for us, but it is truly appreciated. Each year, it seems to get a little more professional.

Marvin Garrett had back surgery in Denver last week and from all reports, he is doing quite well. I imagine there are times when he might like to argue the point as that seems to be one of the feelings that

come upon these kind of surgeries, but when it is all over, it will certainly feel like it was worth it. Mary Ruth is glad that her husband is doing so well and she may be having surgery herself in the near future.

The Bulldog basketball teams are going into the Christmas break with an excellent record.

Both the boys team and girls team remain undefeated, so it looks like another exciting year ahead of us. Can you believe that when the students return to school, the school is half over? It has gone very fast, at least in my opinion.

As I said earlier, there are many

news stories that are very negative to Christmas feelings and I could give several examples, but I want to magnify the things that are happening around us that show the true spirit of the time.

There are many unselfish acts that people are doing, and one of them was of a family in central Kansas that lost the mother of five to an accident a few months ago.

There are people working very hard to supply the father and five children with a new home before Christmas. I think this is super, and it is what we should be concentrating on as the true spirit of the day

Holiday greetings to troops can ease loneliness, burden of duty

CONFIDENTIAL TO READERS: Although I know you're busy beyond belief preparing for the holidays, please take a minute to go to your computers and send greetings to our troops. This is the loneliest time of the year for these brave young men and women, many of whom are away from their families for the first time. Type in www.OperationDear-Abby.net and let them know we care.



Abigail Van Buren
• Dear Abby

to reading the comments about her pictures. I saved each porn site photo spread of her into a file on my computer and viewed them often.

Well, my wife found the file. We are now in marriage counseling, but I still have the fantasies. I know what I did was wrong, but I did it anyway. I don't want to lose my wife. Please help.

—ASHAMED IN VIRGINIA
DEAR ASHAMED: You need more help than I can give you in a letter. You violated your wife's trust, treated her like an object, and while I applaud the fact that you are getting marriage counseling, counseling of a different sort is also in order. Please ask your doctor for a referral to a psychiatrist ASAP, and pray your wife can forgive you.

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker

has planned his own retirement dinner party at \$45 a head, including tax and gratuity.

That might not be much to managers and supervisors who receive large salaries, but for those of us who don't, that's a lot of money. What's ironic is he has let us know he expects an additional \$10 from each of us for a gift.

A luncheon date with 90 percent of the staff had already been confirmed.

However, yesterday a flier was distributed announcing a dinner on the same date the luncheon was scheduled. Our lunch date was canceled without consulting us. I suspect it was a maneuver to force us to attend the dinner party.

We asked him to reschedule the lunch, told him the dinner party was too expensive, and asked if he would make the \$10 gift optional. Are we unreasonable, or is he?

—WONDERING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR WONDERING: Wonder no more. He is. Please don't allow yourselves to be manipulated into spending more than you can afford on this anything

BUT shy and retiring co-worker.
DEAR ABBY: How do I tell my boss that her incessant talking keeps me from getting my job done?

I am currently a week behind because I was out sick for several days last week, and my boss won't stop talking and let me catch up.

She isn't married and doesn't have many friends, so I know her need for friendship carries over to work — but it's starting to make me very stressed.

Then again, she's my boss. How do I deal with this?

— FALLING BEHIND IN ALABAMA

DEAR FALLING BEHIND: Your boss may not be aware the extent to which you have fallen behind in your work, so tell her — especially if you are doing something that might be time-sensitive.

Explain that you are conscientious and don't want to let her down — and if she wants to talk, suggest you do it over lunch. Then cross your fingers and hope she takes you up on it.

DEAR ABBY: A month ago, I

celebrated my 10th wedding anniversary.

My husband and I have been together for 12 years. He didn't lay a hand on me until a year ago.

We got into an argument on Valentine's Day, and he slapped me twice that night. It happened again last month.

We separated after the second incident, but I couldn't afford to move out because I've been a stay-at-home mom for six years.

Tonight we had a minor spat, and he broke my nose. An hour later, his 21-year-old girlfriend drove over and picked him up, and here my 7-year-old son and I sit, while he not only gets sympathy, but also companionship and sex.

Abby, please tell young women that getting involved with married men isn't just stupid; it's dangerous — and often to the woman he's married to when the single woman comes into his life.

— BRUISED IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR BRUISED: I'm broadcasting your message, but don't expect much response. Men who cheat on their wives are not above lying to their girlfriends.

No doubt he has filled her head with what a terrible wife you are and how unhappy you have made him.

That's the "lure" to snag her in the role of "rescuer."

Perhaps you should warn her so she doesn't become victim No. 2. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, have some taken of you before your bruises heal. The police should also be contacted, and the battery put on record.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

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