

# Mom wants to shield her kids from relative's new lifestyle

**DEAR ABBY:** A close relative has started working in the adult industry. She now dresses provocatively, showing lots of skin. She has also covered much of her body with tattoos and adopted the lifestyle of someone in that field. Our family assumes she's "going through a phase" and has no idea what she's really up to.

I have two small children I don't really want around her, but I'm not sure how to handle the situation. I don't want to tell her mom what she's really doing, but at the same time, I don't want my kids thinking that's how people in society are. Please help.

—NERVOUS IN NEW YORK

**DEAR NERVOUS:** If you no longer want to be around this person, no law says you have to be. If your relatives ask you about your absence, tell them the reason. If they don't, don't tattle. This isn't an emergency; rest assured her parents will find out eventually.

As to her being a bad influence on your children, take this as an opportunity for a teachable moment about people coming in "different packaging" and not judging a book by its cover.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm confused and not sure what to do. I'm a 32-year-old single mom who is a hopeless romantic. I've been seeing someone for six months. He is already talking about marriage and a happily ever after, which I am ready for.

The downside is, not long after we started dating I met someone who makes me question everything. He's someone I can't actually be with because — yes, he's married. I'm disgusted with myself for allowing this to happen, but the minute our eyes met, my heart skipped a beat.

What I'm asking is, do I settle for the guy I've been dating because that's what I'm ready for? He's a great guy who cares a lot about my daughter and me. I can be a faithful and loving wife, which he wants. Or should I let him go because my heart truly isn't there? Please help me, even though I don't deserve it.

—SETTLING DOUBTS

**DEAR SETTLING:** Warning: Heartbreak ahead. Although you say you are ready for marriage and happily ever after, I don't think it's true. I can't warn you strongly enough not to marry one man while in your

heart you yearn for someone else. It's a recipe for disaster, and the collateral damage will be not only Mr. Six Months but also your child.

**DEAR ABBY:** I received a drunken text from my son's friend telling me my son is gay. It rambled on about their relationship. I decided not to question my son about it because, if it is true, it won't change our relationship. It really doesn't matter to me. They live in another state.

This is a dilemma because I worry about this "friend" not being trustworthy. Is this my business? Should I tell my son? What if he gets upset?

—TAKEN ABACK

**DEAR TAKEN:** You should absolutely have a talk with your son about the text you received. Ask him if what the friend said is true, and if it is, why you didn't hear it from him. Don't be angry or accusatory. Just be sure to assure him how much you love him and that your feelings for him have not changed. He may need to hear you verbalize it.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 24-year-old male who has been in a relationship with a great woman, "Hayley," for three years. She has excellent qualities, a good job, she's super loving and would be a wonderful wife someday.

My family loves Hayley — but my buddies don't, and it is causing me to have mixed feelings. Some days I love her, but on others I want to break up. Then I think of how fantastic our lives would be together. It's weird, because Hayley doesn't change her personality — it's totally my issue. I'm scared that if I break up with her it could be the worst mistake of my life, and I'll regret it.

Please give me some guidance and point me in the right direction to find the love I have for her.

—SENSITIVE GUY, MILWAUKEE

**DEAR SENSITIVE GUY:** Hayley may make a wonderful wife someday, but from your letter, YOU are nowhere near ready for marriage. Mature love doesn't blow hot and cold, and the feelings you finally experience for the woman you marry won't be dictated by the impression she makes on your buddies. If you need me to point you in the right direction to "find" the love you have for Hayley, then I don't think it is there to begin with. And the honorable thing to do is to level with her.

# Florence flooding puts dams, many high hazard, to the test

By Sarah Rankin

Associated Press

Devastating flooding in North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence has raised concerns about whether dams across the state, some of them already in poor condition, will be able to hold up under the strain.

State officials have been monitoring dam safety in cooperation with local authorities and say there has been at least one dam breach so far, with no homes affected. But there have been several other locations of concern and false alarms about dam failures that have caused panic.

According to data submitted to the National Inventory of Dams for this year's deadline and obtained by The Associated Press, the state has 1,445 dams rated high hazard out of about 5,700 dams total, ranging from large federally owned ones to small private ones. That hazard classification does not indicate the likelihood of failure — just that any failure would be likely to cause the loss of one or more human lives.

Of those high-hazard dams, 185 had conditions of poor or unsatisfactory during recent inspections, the data show. And many of those dams were in areas that have been inundated with water.

Ahead of the storm, workers with North Carolina's Dam Safety Program identified vulnerable structures, contacted dam owners and operators to call attention to the threat and asked them to consider lowering impoundment water levels to temporarily increase storage capacity prior, Bridget Munger, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Quality said.

Dam safety personnel have also been deployed to the state Emergency Operations Center since before the storm, Munger added.

State Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry said Monday that there had been one dam breach in Brunswick County. He said no homes were affected in the inundation area.

On Sunday night, an Associated Press reporter was with a U.S. Army swift-water rescue team in Fayetteville when a call came over the radio about a dam failure in Pinehurst, which turned out to be a false alarm. Then another call came in reporting another dam breach.

Soldiers who had been resting on cots starting donning boots, helmets and life vests, and a team deployed toward a nearby fire department. About halfway there, the call was canceled — another false alarm.

A Facebook post claiming a dam in Hope Mills, a suburb of Fayetteville, had failed caused trouble there Sunday night, Mayor Jackie Warner said.

"It created a panic because people thought the dam had broken, and they didn't know which way the water would go," she said. Residents started calling asking if they needed to leave their homes, she said.

The dam held up just fine.

Rumors also spread Sunday night in nearby Hoke County about a dam break. Mandatory evacuations were ordered because of flooding at a lake, but the dam wasn't breached, emergency management coordinator Andrew Jacobs said. The evacuation order was lifted Monday afternoon.

In McLaughlin Lakes, a subdivision immediately next to the lake, most declined to evacuate.

"It was an overreaction, don't you think?" Jeff Konopka asked his neighbors.

"Very much so," said Kim Santiago, who has lived beside the lake for 24 years and has seen the dam overflow in numerous storms.

Two of North Carolina's high-hazard dams are at Duke Energy's Weatherspoon Plant in Robeson County, an area that has been swamped with water.

One is at a cooling pond and the other at a coal ash pond. The dam at the coal ash pond was found to be in poor condition during an inspection last year, according to the data.

Both structures were performing well and no problems were expected, Duke spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said Monday.

Catastrophic dam failures are infrequent, and age is a leading indicator of dam failure, with the exception of seismic or weather events, a 2008 Congressional Research Service report found.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave a "D" grade to the state of the country's dams in a 2017 report, noting the average age of the dams is 56 years old. The ASCE estimated there are more than 2,000 "deficient high-hazard" dams lacking investment in repairs and upgrades.

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# weather

TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Mainly clear	More clouds than sunshine	Partly sunny and pleasant	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny
Baker City <b>35</b> Comfort Index™ <b>10</b>	<b>71 36</b> <b>10</b>	<b>79 42</b> <b>10</b>	<b>72 41</b> <b>10</b>	<b>67 34</b> <b>9</b>
La Grande <b>40</b> Comfort Index™ <b>9</b>	<b>69 41</b> <b>8</b>	<b>78 48</b> <b>10</b>	<b>70 40</b> <b>9</b>	<b>66 34</b> <b>9</b>
Enterprise <b>37</b> Comfort Index™ <b>10</b>	<b>67 40</b> <b>9</b>	<b>75 44</b> <b>10</b>	<b>69 42</b> <b>10</b>	<b>65 36</b> <b>10</b>

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	74°	72°	72°
Low Tuesday	37°	41°	39°
<b>PRECIPITATION (inches)</b>			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	Trace	0.03	0.00
Normal month to date	0.35	0.38	0.46
Year to date	4.75	10.51	20.95
Normal year to date	7.42	11.25	15.49

## TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 108°	Needles, Calif.
Low: 13°	Bodie State Park, Calif.
Wettest: 3.86"	Manchester, N.H.
OREGON	
High: 82°	Ontario
Low: 27°	Sunriver
Wettest: none	

## AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	W at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	3.9
Evapotranspiration	0.11

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	11% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	34% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	33% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	5% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	553 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	59 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	48 cfs
Minam River at Minam	51 cfs
Powder River near Richland	9 cfs

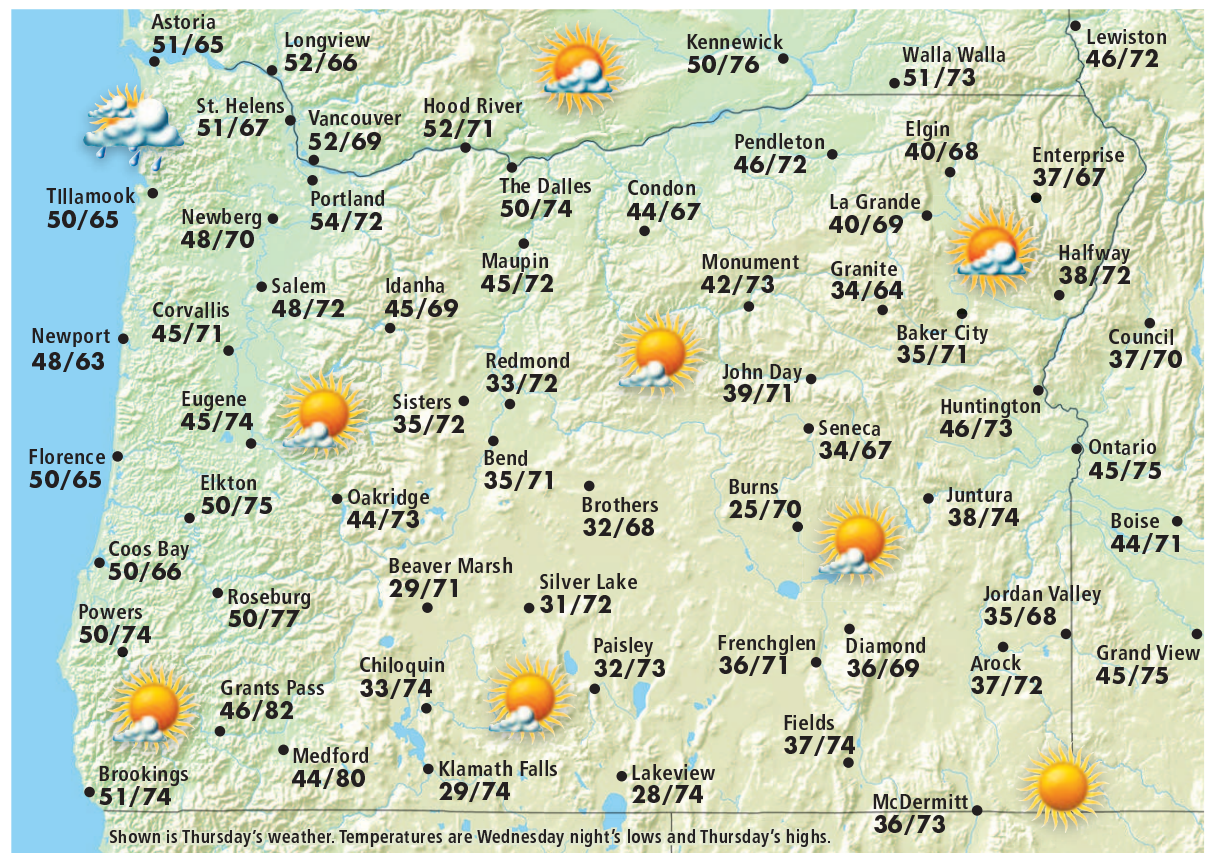
## SUN & MOON

	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	6:35 a.m.	6:37 a.m.
Sunset	6:56 p.m.	6:54 p.m.
Moonrise	4:30 p.m.	5:07 p.m.
Moonset	1:05 a.m.	2:00 a.m.

MOON PHASES			
Full	Last	New	First
Sep 24	Oct 2	Oct 8	Oct 16

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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## REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	65/52/c	67/54/r	Lewiston	72/47/pc	78/54/pc
Bend	71/40/pc	77/45/pc	Longview	66/54/sh	66/54/r
Boise	71/47/s	81/53/s	Meacham	66/39/c	75/46/pc
Brookings	74/51/pc	66/51/pc	Medford	80/48/c	85/51/s
Burns	70/29/s	79/37/s	Newport	63/50/pc	64/53/r
Coos Bay	66/51/pc	67/56/pc	Olympia	66/51/c	66/51/r
Corvallis	71/47/c	73/51/r	Ontario	75/41/s	81/48/s
Council	70/40/pc	76/44/s	Pasco	76/47/pc	78/54/pc
Elgin	68/40/c	77/48/pc	Pendleton	72/48/pc	78/54/pc
Eugene	74/46/pc	75/52/c	Portland	72/54/c	75/56/r
Hermiston	76/49/pc	78/54/pc	Powers	74/50/pc	72/53/pc
Hood River	71/51/c	76/56/pc	Redmond	72/38/pc	79/44/pc
Imnaha	71/45/c	79/54/pc	Roseburg	77/49/pc	80/54/pc
John Day	71/43/pc	80/48/pc	Salem	72/50/c	74/53/r
Joseph	67/40/c	74/42/pc	Spokane	66/47/c	69/49/pc
Kennewick	76/51/pc	79/54/pc	The Dalles	74/49/c	78/52/pc
Klamath Falls	74/34/s	79/37/s	Ukiah	66/39/pc	75/42/pc
Lakeview	74/31/s	80/36/s	Walla Walla	73/51/pc	77/56/pc

## RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

<b>ANTHONY LAKES</b> Partly sunny; cold	<b>43 26</b>	
<b>PHILLIPS LAKE</b> Mostly sunny	<b>67 34</b>	
<b>MT. EMILY REC.</b> Partly sunny; cool	<b>56 37</b>	
<b>BROWNLEE RES.</b> Partly sunny	<b>74 40</b>	
<b>EAGLE CAP WILD.</b> A shower	<b>55 27</b>	
<b>EMIGRANT ST. PARK</b> Partly sunny	<b>62 34</b>	
<b>WALLOWA LAKE</b> Partly sunny	<b>68 37</b>	
<b>MCKAY RESERVOIR</b> Partly sunny	<b>72 47</b>	
<b>THIEF VALLEY RES.</b> Mostly sunny	<b>71 35</b>	
<b>RED BRIDGE ST. PARK</b> Partly sunny	<b>69 40</b>	



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