

Husband fathers a child during couple's separation

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I separated last year and reconciled several months later. When we decided to get back together, he broke it off with his girlfriend. A month later she contacted him to inform him that she's pregnant with his child. She's due in a few months.

My husband and I disagree about how things should be handled when the child arrives. She says I'm not allowed to come to the hospital with him and meet the baby. I say that going without me is absurd, and any child that belongs to my husband is a part of my life, too. However, he says she is in charge of the situation. I'm worried that when the baby is born I'll be at home alone with a broken heart. Where should I draw the line with my husband?



DEAR ABBY

information if they would like to have it. I know this situation is delicate. I desperately want to avoid doing the wrong thing. Please advise.

— HEARTBROKEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your instincts are on target. The best way to accomplish what you have in mind would be to write to the adoptive mother and allow her to decide what to do with the information you give her. Most adopted children at some point want to know who their birth parents were, if only so they can get a complete medical history.

DEAR ABBY: I love my mother, but our relationship has been awkward since I came out to her when I was 13. After I told her I was gay, she grew more and more distant. She went into full grandma mode for my sister and her sons and, in my eyes, neglected me.

She was seldom home, and when she was, we would argue about everything. It got so bad that I left and moved in with my aunt, who was like a mom to me. My sister told me she thinks Mom is in denial because every time my sister would want to talk about it, Mom would clam up.

Mom and I have NEVER talked about it. I clearly recall the day I came out. When I told Mom, she said she already knew. Then she added, "It's just a phase."

I'm sad that even after 12 years she still hasn't accepted that this is who I am and who I have always been. It upsets me that she doesn't know all of me. Should I have a sit-down talk with her like the adults we are?

— SAME SON AS ALWAYS

DEAR SAME SON: Only you can make the decision to have that important conversation with your mother. Before you do, I'm advising you to contact an organization called PFLAG. PFLAG helps to build bridges of understanding between families and their LGBTQ members. You can find it by going online to pflag.org. If your concern is that your mother's position may force you to end your relationship with her, prepare in advance by making sure you have a loving support system around you.

— WORRIED WIFE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WORRIED WIFE: Forgive me if this seems cynical, but is your husband ABSOLUTELY SURE that the baby is his? And, if it is, to what extent does he plan to be involved in the child's life? If he participates in raising him/her, then you are right, his child WILL become a part of your life. If he decides to do no more than write support checks, the impact on you will be much less.

Frankly, I don't blame you for feeling worried. If a paternity test hasn't proved he's the father of the baby, he should discuss this with a lawyer to insist there be one.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 19, I lost custody of my three children to the state. They were adopted out, and I have had no contact since. Over the years I tried to find them without success. Recently, I found their names and addresses using ancestry.com to search their birth records. My son, the oldest, is 18 now, but his sisters are only 15 and 16.

I want to write a letter to the adoptive mother; let her know my side of the story and offer to open a line of communication for her and the kids. Would that be selfish? What's the right thing to do here?

I was very young and stupid when I lost my children. I'm now in my 30s and much wiser. I have lived with this heartbreak for 15 years. I don't want to disrupt their lives, but I do want them to have my contact

Flooding poses potential risk for 1 million private wells

By Jim Salter
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — More than 1 million private wells that supply drinking water in mostly rural parts of the Midwest could face the risk of contamination from floodwater, posing a health concern that could linger long after the flooding subsides.

Major flooding along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and several smaller waterways has inundated states in the middle of America, from the Canadian border south to Kentucky. The National Weather Service has warned that snowmelt in northern states only beginning, the threat of additional flooding persists well into spring.

The high water and swift current carries raw sewage from overburdened treatment plants, animal waste and pesticides from farm fields, and spilled fuel.

"Whatever was on the land is in the water now," said Steve May, assistant chief of the Missouri Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology.

Contaminated water can carry bacteria such as E. coli that can cause gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems and neurological disorders, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infants, young children, pregnant women, elderly people, and people with compromised immune systems are particularly vulnerable.

The National Ground Water Association, a trade

group for the industry that includes well systems, said there are 1.1 million private wells in 300 flooded counties in 10 states: Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Kentucky.

Stagnant water could linger for days or even weeks even as flooding starts to subside in hard-hit areas, raising the risk that some of it will get into wells by flooding over the top, seeping through cracks or as a result of other flaws in the well structure.

Liesa Lehmann, private-water section chief for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said her state has an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 private wells. The National Ground Water Association said the current flood poses a risk to more than 280,000 Wisconsin wells, the most in any state.

"Anyone who has a private well within a flood plain area of a major river, those wells are certainly going to be vulnerable to contamination," Lehmann said.

Drinking water comes from a variety of sources. Some public water supplies use rivers, streams, lakes or other bodies of water. Others use water from the ground. Either way, public water supplies are government-regulated and have safeguards to protect against contamination.

But the federal government estimates that about 15 million U.S. households — most often in rural areas that don't have access to public drinking water

systems — rely on private wells. Those wells are not typically regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, so it's up to the well owner to make sure the water is clean.

Owners of private wells use a variety of methods to remove contaminants, including filtration systems, water softeners, distillation systems that boil out the impurities, and disinfectants such as chlorine. But if floodwater gets into a well, those efforts may not be enough.

Lehmann said well owners who see floodwater near or over their wells should assume the drinking water supply is contaminated. She encouraged them to watch for any change in the color, smell or taste of their water, and to consider alternatives such as bottled water.

Once flooding recedes, remaining well water should be pumped out and the well should be disinfected, said Chuck Job, regulatory affairs manager for the National Ground Water Association. Lehmann said that because the presence of so much water poses an electrocution risk, well owners should hire professionals to do the work.

Once the well is disinfected, water should be tested to make sure it's safe, Job said.

At least one state is offering free well-water testing in flooded areas. Missouri property owners seeking free testing must obtain collection kits from the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory and submit samples using those kits.

weather

TONIGHT Mostly cloudy	THU Cloudy	FRI A passing morning shower	SAT Partly sunny	SUN Thickening clouds
Baker City 32 Comfort Index™ 0	53 29 4	54 28 4	58 31 10	60 36 9
La Grande 36 Comfort Index™ 2	51 31 4	50 31 3	56 32 10	59 37 10
Enterprise 34 Comfort Index™ 0	46 30 0	46 27 2	51 29 9	55 35 9

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 Monday	58°	58°	56°
Low Monday	30°	32°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	Trace	0.00	0.04
Month to date	0.93	0.45	1.44
Normal month to date	0.66	1.17	1.79
Year to date	3.39	4.60	11.33
Normal year to date	2.04	3.94	7.29

MONDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 92°	Hebronville, Texas
Low: -2°	Amasa, Mich.
Wettest: 1.62"	Monticello, Ark.
OREGON	
High: 65°	Ontario
Low: 15°	Crater Lake
Wettest: 1.07"	Brookings

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon Wind	WNW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.6
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	13% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	48% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	55% of capacity
Mckay Reservoir	80% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	44% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	109% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	8860 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	N.A.
Burnt River near Unity	29 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	822 cfs
Minam River at Minam	453 cfs
Powder River near Richland	1210 cfs

SUN & MOON

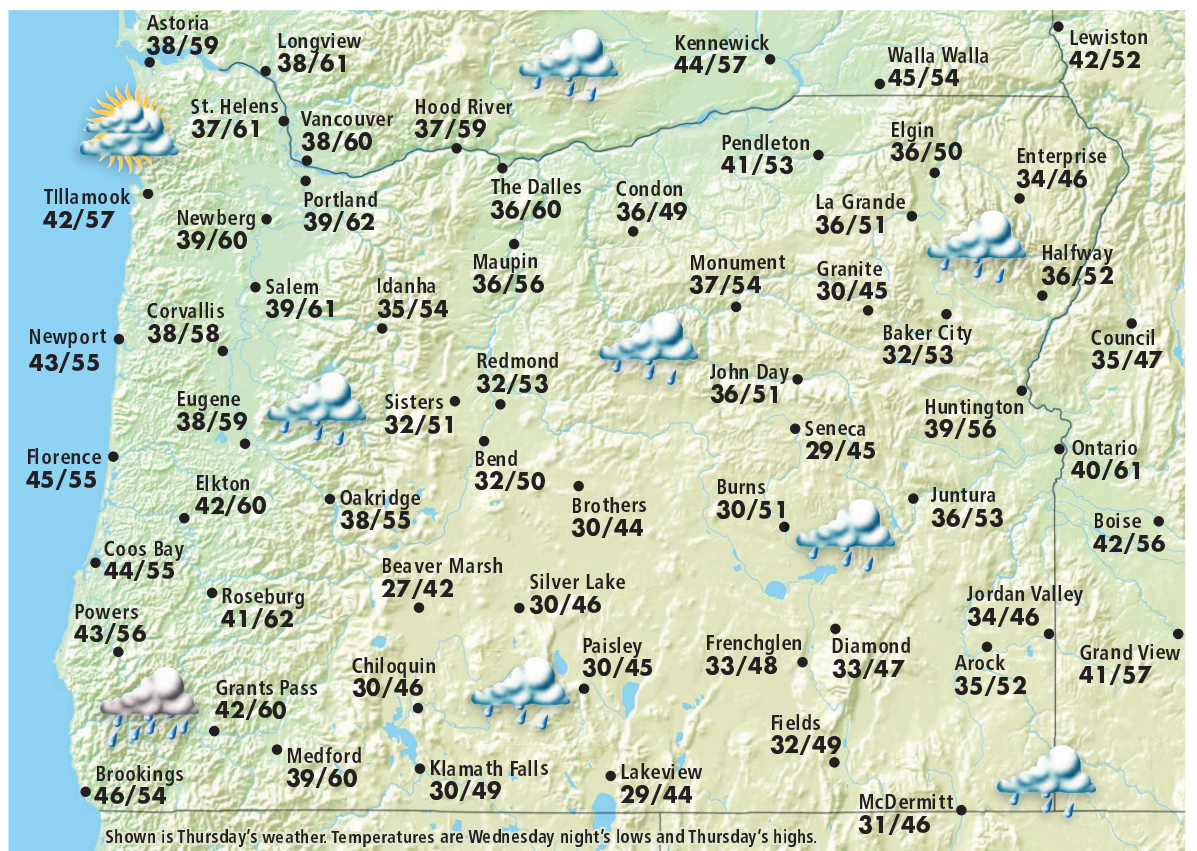
	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	6:43 a.m.	6:41 a.m.
Sunset	7:13 p.m.	7:15 p.m.
Moonrise	1:56 a.m.	2:51 a.m.
Moonset	11:08 a.m.	11:57 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 27	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU.		FRI.		
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	
Astoria	59/39/sh	59/37/pc	Lewiston	52/41/c	54/36/c
Bend	50/31/sh	51/29/pc	Longview	61/42/c	62/38/c
Boise	56/37/sh	57/34/c	Meacham	48/29/sn	48/29/c
Brookings	54/45/sh	55/42/sh	Medford	60/38/sh	64/35/pc
Burns	51/29/c	52/26/pc	Newport	55/43/sh	56/41/pc
Coos Bay	55/43/c	56/41/pc	Olympia	63/35/c	63/33/c
Corvallis	58/41/sh	61/37/pc	Ontario	61/36/c	63/34/pc
Council	47/30/sn	51/29/c	Pasco	57/39/c	61/36/c
Elgin	50/31/c	50/31/c	Pendleton	53/37/c	54/36/c
Eugene	59/41/sh	61/37/pc	Portland	62/43/c	64/39/pc
Hermiston	58/38/c	61/38/pc	Powers	56/42/c	57/40/pc
Hood River	59/38/c	62/37/pc	Redmond	53/33/c	54/29/pc
Imnaha	52/35/c	53/34/c	Roseburg	62/41/sh	62/39/pc
John Day	51/29/c	51/32/pc	Salem	61/42/sh	63/38/pc
Joseph	46/28/sn	46/28/c	Spokane	50/35/c	57/35/c
Kennewick	57/39/c	60/37/c	The Dalles	60/38/c	62/37/pc
Klamath Falls	49/29/c	52/26/pc	Ukiah	47/29/c	47/27/c
Lakeview	44/31/c	47/26/pc	Walla Walla	54/43/c	56/40/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST THURSDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A snow shower	28 16		PHILLIPS LAKE A snow squall	47 26	
MT. EMILY REC. Cloudy and chilly	39 27		BROWNLEE RES. Cloudy, a shower	53 33	
EAGLE CAP WILD. A snow shower	35 18		EMIGRANT ST. PARK A snow squall	43 27	
WALLOWA LAKE A snow squall	46 28		MCKAY RESERVOIR Cloudy, a shower	53 35	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Cloudy	53 29		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Cloudy	51 31	



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