

History of put-downs causes broken trust between in-laws

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married to my darling husband for 20 years. The problem is his sister.

When we first met, she asked my husband if I was “for real” because I’m very outgoing and affectionate. In the early years, and until about six years ago, she would berate me with abusive criticism. In most instances, her comments were inaccurate. If I tried to overlook her actions and have a good relationship, she would soon find something else to criticize.

I am normally an “it’s history” kind of person when it comes to confrontations and forget them quickly. Thankfully her abuse has finally stopped. But I’m now having trust issues because every time in the past when I let my guard down to mend the relationship, she’d lash out and put me down again. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

— WARY IN TEXAS

DEAR WARY: One would think that during the time your sister-in-law was sniping at you, your “darling” husband would have stepped in and told his sister to put her knives away. After suffering through 14 years of her emotional battery, it’s no wonder you have trust issues where she’s concerned.

Intelligent person that you are, it’s likely you always will have them, so stop blaming yourself for it. Continue being the outgoing and affectionate person you always have been, and keep your guard up because that’s what healthy people have to do when dealing with someone like her.

DEAR ABBY: I love my wonderful neighbors of 28 years. They are 10 years younger than my parents. They have been like a second set of parents to me. My concern is for their health. They are in their 60s and 70s, but neither one goes to the doctor.

The wife went 20-plus years ago and decided never to return after they prescribed diabetes and blood pressure medication for her. More recently, she can no longer leave the house because she has injured her arthritic knee so badly. She refuses to get it checked and claims it will heal. (She diagnosed herself via Dr. Google.) Her intelligent adult daughter is aware of all of this.

I know this is a choice people make, but at this point I’m sure it’s just anxiety that is keeping her from getting the medical help she needs. She’s missing her garden, her grandchildren and grocery shopping, so I’m sure she doesn’t want to spend the rest of her life like this. Her husband has no influence either and is picking up what she no longer can do. I have tried encouraging her to seek advice, but haven’t pushed her so hard as to push her away. What should I do?

— SCARED FOR THEM IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR SCARED: If anyone could do anything, it would have to be the woman’s husband and her daughter. I assume you have pointed out to your neighbor that with medical help she could heal more quickly, and also that there is something called preventive medicine that can help people avoid becoming seriously ill. Because you have talked until you are blue in the face and still haven’t been able to get through, my advice is to love her while you have her.

DEAR ABBY: My heart is breaking for my friend who was married just a month and a half ago. She and her husband went on a two-week Mediterranean cruise for their honeymoon. They have not lived together since then. Her husband says he loves her, and I know she loves him, but he has no immediate plans to live with her. She’s heartbroken and is planning an annulment. What advice do you have?

— THROWN IN MARYLAND

DEAR THROWN: I wish you had shared a few more details about their situation. I’m surprised your friend wasn’t aware of her husband’s feelings before she married him.

However, as sympathetic as you are about her situation, my advice is to be there for her to lean on but refrain from giving her advice. She’s going to have to figure this out for herself. Some couples do better if they live separately. But if what her husband has in mind was a surprise and is unacceptable to her, she is doing the right thing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SUPERFUND BACKLOG

Backlog of toxic Superfund cleanups grows under Trump

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has built up the biggest backlog of unfunded toxic Superfund cleanup projects in at least 15 years, nearly triple the number that were stalled for lack of money in the Obama era, according to 2019 figures quietly released by the Environmental Protection Agency over the winter holidays.

The accumulation of Superfund projects that are ready to go except for money comes as the Trump administration routinely proposes funding cuts for Superfund and for the EPA in general. The four-decade-old Superfund program is meant to tackle some of the most heavily contaminated sites in the U.S. and Trump has declared it a priority even while seeking to shrink its budget.

“There hasn’t been a sense of urgency,” said Violet Donoghue, who has lived for 31 years on Bon Brae Street in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. Toxic PCBs have poisoned some local soil, water and fish at nearby Lake St. Clair, and the neighborhood is one of the 34 Superfund sites where cleanup projects languished for lack of money in 2019.

“I feel many people have been harmed, but that’s only my opinion,” Donoghue said. She said the last word from the EPA was that soil would be removed from the front of her house. “Now when they say they’re cleaning it, I say, ‘OK, give me the date,’” she



The Associated Press file photo

Water contaminated with arsenic, lead and zinc flows from a pipe out of the Lee Mountain mine and into a holding pond near Rimini, Mont. The community is part of the UpperTenmile Creek Superfund site, where dozens of abandoned mines have left water supplies polluted and residents must use bottled water.

said.

The unfunded projects are in 17 states and Puerto Rico. They range from abandoned mines that discharged heavy metals and arsenic in the West to an old wood pulp site in Mississippi and a defunct dry cleaner that released toxic solvents in North Carolina.

Congress created the Superfund program in 1980 after the Love Canal episode and other notorious pollution cases. Its intent is to hold polluters responsible for cleanup costs or provide taxpayer money when no responsible party can be identified.

Trump “is focused on putting Americans first,” EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler told a Senate environment committee early 2019. “There may be no better example than our success in the Superfund

program.”

“We are in the process of cleaning up some of the nation’s largest, most complex sites and returning them to productive use,” Wheeler said then.

But two former EPA officials whose work dealt with Superfund oversight said the growing backlog of stalled Superfund projects under the Trump administration, and steady or ebbing numbers of cleanup construction projects completed, point to a different picture.

“They’re misleading Congress and the public about the funds that are needed to really protect the public from exposure to the toxic chemicals,” said Elizabeth Southerland, who worked for 30 years at EPA, including as director of science and technology in the water of-fice, before retiring in 2017. “It’s detrimental.”

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weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Rain and drizzle late	A passing morning shower	Rain and snow showers	Mostly cloudy	Cloudy
Baker City 33 Comfort Index™ 3	42 27 4	39 27 3	39 26 3	37 27 1
La Grande 36 Comfort Index™ 3	40 28 0	39 30 0	37 29 1	37 30 1
Enterprise 33 Comfort Index™ 5	38 24 0	37 27 2	36 27 4	39 27 4

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	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
TEMPERATURES			
High Wednesday	49°	50°	48°
Low Wednesday	33°	37°	40°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	0.01	0.17	0.90
Month to date	0.01	0.17	0.90
Normal month to date	0.03	0.06	0.10
Year to date	0.01	0.17	0.90
Normal year to date	0.03	0.06	0.10

WED. EXTREMES

NATION	(for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 82°	Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -22°	Alamosa, Colo.
Wettest: 2.97"	Stamper Pass, Wash.
OREGON	
High: 59°	Hermiston
Low: 29°	Keno
Wettest: 0.95"	Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

On Jan. 3, 1777, George Washington noticed it would freeze that night. He ordered bonfires built as a decoy. When the ground froze, Washington’s men outflanked the British.

SUN & MOON

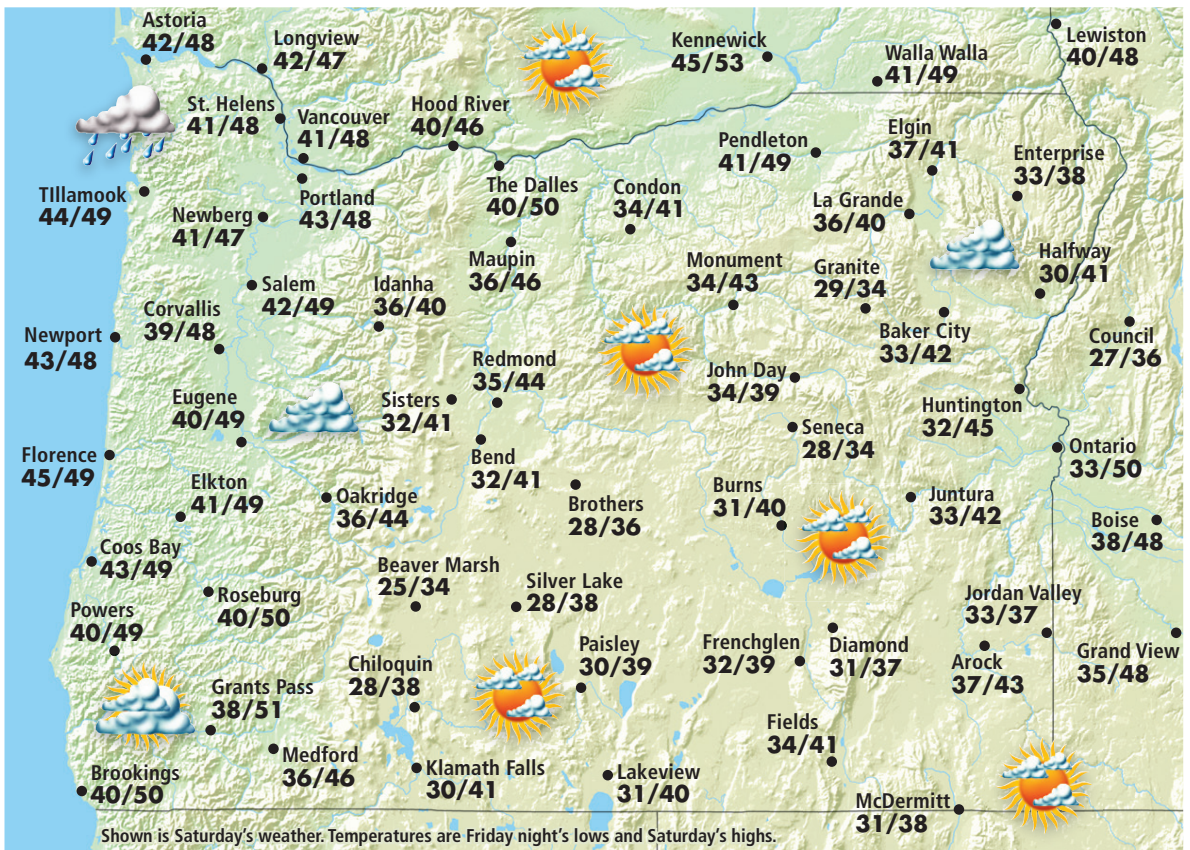
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	7:32 a.m.	7:32 a.m.
Sunset	4:22 p.m.	4:23 p.m.
Moonrise	12:10 p.m.	12:32 p.m.
Moonset	12:04 a.m.	1:06 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Feb 1

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W	City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	48/43/r	47/41/r	Lewiston	48/35/c	45/35/sn
Bend	41/28/c	41/28/c	Longview	47/41/r	45/41/r
Boise	48/31/c	40/30/sn	Meacham	38/26/c	37/30/sf
Brookings	50/40/pc	49/38/r	Medford	46/35/r	45/33/c
Burns	40/22/pc	39/23/c	Newport	48/43/sh	48/42/r
Coos Bay	49/42/c	50/39/r	Olympia	47/40/r	45/39/r
Corvallis	48/39/sh	47/38/r	Ontario	50/29/pc	43/31/sn
Council	36/20/c	33/22/sn	Pasco	54/38/pc	51/40/pc
Elgin	41/28/c	39/31/sf	Pendleton	49/34/pc	47/37/pc
Eugene	49/39/c	48/37/r	Portland	48/41/sh	47/41/r
Hermiston	52/32/pc	48/39/r	Powers	49/39/c	48/35/r
Hood River	46/37/sh	45/40/sh	Redmond	44/28/pc	44/29/c
Imnaha	40/26/c	39/30/sn	Roseburg	50/39/sh	48/38/r
John Day	39/28/pc	39/28/sf	Salem	49/40/sh	48/39/r
Joseph	36/24/c	35/24/i	Spokane	43/32/c	39/30/pc
Kennewick	53/39/pc	50/41/pc	The Dalles	50/37/sh	47/39/c
Klamath Falls	41/25/c	40/25/c	Ukiah	37/25/c	36/27/sn
Lakeview	40/22/c	39/21/pc	Walla Walla	49/36/pc	46/37/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Winds subsiding	A shower
21 12	35 20
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Colder	A morning shower
31 23	41 24
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Colder	Colder
26 14	34 22
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
Colder	Cooler
36 24	48 34
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
A shower	A shower
42 27	40 28

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