

Can we ban spoiled niece with history of misbehaving at parties?

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I want to host a college graduation party for our son. The problem is, one of my sisters has four children — three teenagers and an 11-year-old who doesn't behave at parties. My sister calls her "Our Little Precious." She and her husband come to events, ignore the kids and want this to be their time to "relax." Another sister has two teenagers who are very well behaved.



DEAR ABBY

uate. But I don't want to cause a permanent rift in the family either. My sister is very stubborn, hot-tempered and clueless. Advice?

— SISTER

DEAR SISTER: Your son deserves to celebrate the milestone he has earned without the distraction of an unruly child casting a shadow over the event. Consider having a small gathering for immediate family only, and something larger at another time that includes your son's friends as well as your own. Or invite your sister and her family with the proviso that if Little Precious acts up, they will leave and take her home. Precious, my foot!

DEAR ABBY: An acquaintance I see occasionally has a grooming problem I'm reluctant to tell him about because I don't know him well: He has hairs growing out of his nose, and they are not only noticeable but distracting. How can I apprise him of this without embarrassing him and myself?

— DIPLOMAT

DEAR DIPLOMAT: Allow me to answer that question by quoting an ancient Chinese proverb: "When in doubt, do nothing." While your intent is to be helpful, it would cause embarrassment, and I don't recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who is an alcoholic. I met her when we first moved here five years ago. At that time, I wasn't aware of her drinking problem. Over the years it has become very

apparent. I have yelled at her, shown concern for her, threatened rehab, begged her to get help, etc.

She calls me late in the evening rambling on about ridiculous things, repeating the same stories over and over, crying, claiming she's having panic attacks and all sorts of other health ailments that are most likely caused by her drinking. I am at my wits' end with her. She's a good person and has a good heart, but I know I can't save her because she's already stated she will never stop drinking.

How do I manage to keep my own sanity? I sometimes feel like I enable her by not calling her out on all her excuses for her problems when I know well they're all because of the drinking.

— ENABLER IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ENABLER: I have

two suggestions for you. The first is to go online to al-anon.org to find the nearest location for meetings and attend some. Al-Anon is a sister organization of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it was founded to help and support the friends and family members of people who have an alcohol problem. It will help you to understand that YOU cannot help your friend. Only SHE can do that by mustering up the resolve to quit drinking. Many alcoholics do this only after they finally what their addiction has cost them. In this case, the price may be her friendship with you. The second is to tell your friend — while she is sober — that she cannot continue calling you when she has been drinking, and that if she does, you will hang up. Then do it.

BPA seeks to clear misconceptions about removing power-generating dams

Dam removal would force co-ops into move faster to power market

By Katy Nesbitt
For the EO Media Group

PORTLAND — With a public comment period on the operation of Bonneville Power Administration's 14 hydropower generating dams ending April 13, officials are working to dispel widely held misconceptions about the systems' management.

The draft Columbia River System Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released Feb. 28 for a 45-day public comment period. Amy Echols, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers outreach coordinator for the fish and environment team, said six public meetings were scheduled to be held around the Northwest, but were moved online because of recent federal and state precautions around the COVID-19 virus.

Echols said the virtual public meetings in regards to the draft EIS, co-authored by BPA, Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation had the same facilitation and presenters.

She said the teleconference format worked well. "One of the advantages of this format is that people from all over the region, and even outside the region, could attend without having to travel," she said. "It provided a glimmer of opportunity in the midst of change."

With 190 people signed into a four-hour call on March 31, Echols said 90 people were able to provide verbal comment.

Doug Johnson, senior spokesperson for BPA, said the three sponsoring agencies, along with a list of 30 other government stakeholders, began work on the Columbia River Systems Operations analysis in August 2016. The anticipated release of the final environmental impact statement is scheduled for July and the Record of Decision should be published by September.

Now with the comment period is drawing near, Johnson said he wanted to make sure some of the errancies that arose are clarified.

Dams provide more than 4% to BPA

One of the most confusing issues is the repeated statement the lower Snake River dams only contribute 4% to BPA's total.

What is crucial to note, Johnson said, is the electricity generated by the Snake River dams accounts for a little more than 10% of the electricity BPA sells to its 136 preference customers — public utility districts, municipal electric utilities and rural cooperatives, including Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative based in Baker City. These districts and co-ops are considered preference customers because they get 100% of their power from BPA.

"The cost of replacing the power from the dams would hit them in a disproportionate manner," Johnson wrote in an email. "Removing the Snake River Dams and replacing them with natural gas generation would increase the rates of PUDs, municipal electric utilities and electric cooperatives by 8.2 to 9.6 percent. If those dams were replaced by a combination of renewables, battery storage and other non-carbon measures, which may be more likely given current state renewable portfolio standards and other carbon legislative proposals, it is projected to increase those rates by 9.5 to 19.3 percent."

Oregon Trail Electric serves

61,000 people in four counties. Chief Financial Officer Anthony Bailey said as a co-op, OTEC only receives power from BPA and is dependent on the decisions that affect Bonneville.

"Assuming dams went away the (preference customer) utilities would have to develop their own (power generating) resources or buy Tier-2 power through a contract," Bailey said. "It would force us into the market much quicker instead of BPA being able to manage for us."

Natural gas, others hit BPA

Another criticism that arose among the public comments is BPA sells power for less than it costs to produce. Johnson said 78% of the revenue BPA generates is from its preference customers.

The remaining 12% of revenue comes from what he called "surplus sales" or "secondary revenue."

"When we produce more power than our wholesale customers need then we go to the spot market and sell it at a rate oftentimes lower than our wholesale rate," Johnson said.

In recent years, BPA power is

fetching less on the spot market than it did traditionally for a few reasons, Johnson said. He listed lower natural gas prices and the influx of wind and solar energy as contributing factors. BPA also takes a hit periodically during spring high flows or when a lot of wind power is produced.

"In rare circumstances, we provide energy on the spot market for less than it costs to produce," Johnson said. "It's the exception, not the rule."

Addressing claims that BPA is becoming financially insolvent, Johnson said a couple of years ago, BPA adopted a strategy to cut spending.

He blamed a lack of "cost discipline" and said by trimming \$66 million of costs planned for the current two-year rate period, BPA was able to hold rates flat for the first time in more than a decade.

"Considering that between 2008 and 2018, BPA wholesale power rates increased on average about 3.6% per year, this clearly demonstrates the financial discipline to bend the cost curve and provide low-cost, carbon-free hydropower to our public power utility customers across the Northwest," he said.

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A bit of snow and rain	Cloudy and remaining cool	A passing morning shower	Partly sunny	Sunny and beautiful
Baker City	30	54 32	58 29	61 30	64 31
Comfort Index™	1	2	9	10	10
La Grande	33	52 32	55 31	60 31	62 32
Comfort Index™	2	3	5	10	10
Enterprise	31	50 32	52 28	56 30	59 32
Comfort Index™	3	2	9	10	10

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	47°	42°	48°
Low Thursday	19°	26°	28°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.02	0.16
Month to date	Trace	0.19	0.20
Normal month to date	0.05	0.10	0.13
Year to date	0.79	5.80	18.53
Normal year to date	2.27	4.37	7.91

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 90°	Zapata, Texas
Low: -14°	Stanley, Idaho
Wettest: 1.32"	Millinocket, Maine
OREGON	
High: 55°	Grants Pass
Low: 14°	Lakeview
Wettest: 0.09"	Scappoose

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	50%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	2.0
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)	
Phillips Reservoir	36% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	89% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	84% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	90% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	70% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	102% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	4190 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	110 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	155 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	485 cfs
Minam River at Minam	230 cfs
Powder River near Richland	283 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

The U.S.S. Akron crashed on April 4, 1933, during a wind-whipped storm near Barnegat Light, N.J. Fog-induced collisions, icebergs and storms have sunk many ships.

SUN & MOON

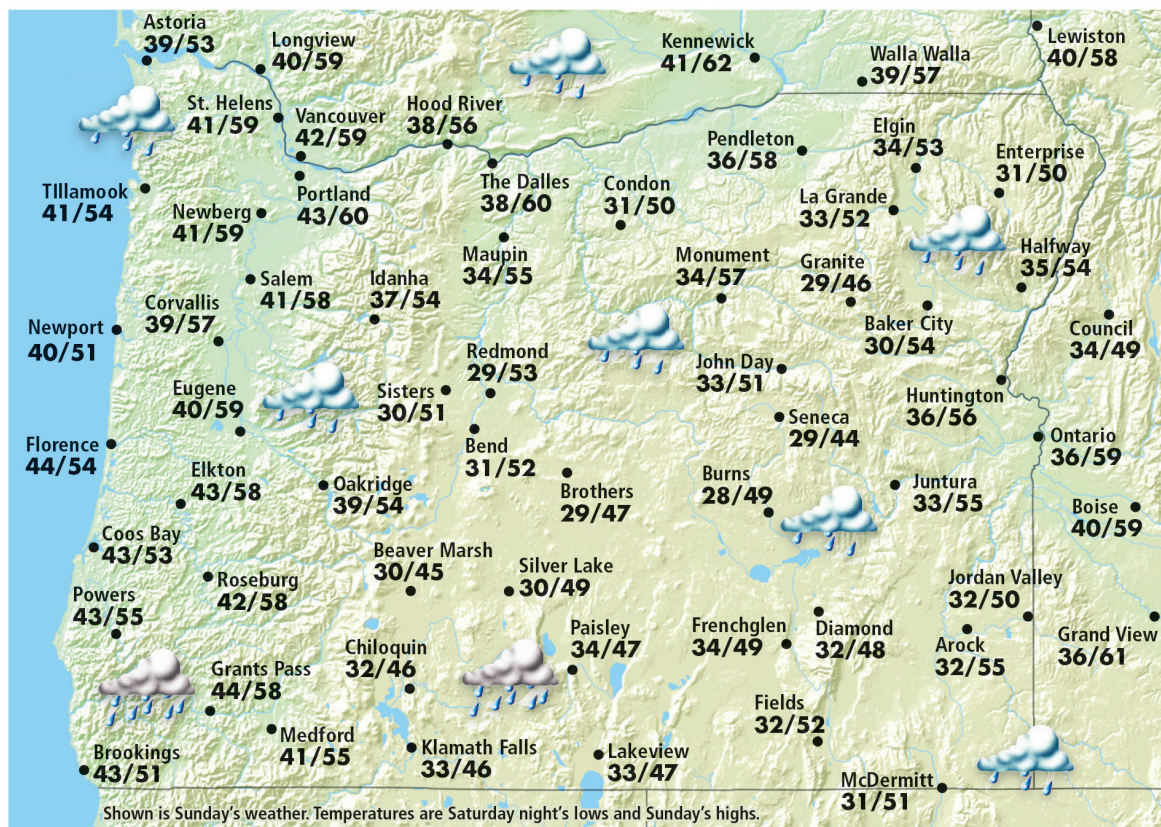
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:27 a.m.	6:25 a.m.
Sunset	7:25 p.m.	7:26 p.m.
Moonrise	3:12 p.m.	4:32 p.m.
Moonset	5:04 a.m.	5:37 a.m.

MOON PHASES

	Full	Last	New	First
	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 22	Apr 30

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W	City	SUN. HI/Lo/W	MON. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	53/39/r	56/38/pc	Lewiston	58/40/c	61/39/pc
Bend	52/31/sh	52/29/c	Longview	59/37/c	61/35/pc
Boise	59/42/c	57/38/c	Meacham	51/32/sh	53/30/pc
Brookings	51/40/r	52/41/r	Medford	55/38/r	55/36/r
Burns	49/28/sh	54/27/c	Newport	51/41/c	53/39/c
Coos Bay	53/41/c	52/38/c	Olympia	55/34/c	60/33/pc
Corvallis	57/41/sh	59/34/c	Ontario	59/40/c	61/36/c
Council	49/34/c	54/30/pc	Pasco	61/39/c	67/37/pc
Elgin	53/32/c	55/32/pc	Pendleton	58/38/sh	60/39/pc
Eugene	59/40/c	60/35/c	Portland	60/42/r	60/39/pc
Hermiston	63/38/c	66/41/pc	Powers	55/37/r	53/39/c
Hood River	56/41/c	62/37/pc	Redmond	53/29/sh	55/27/pc
Imnaha	54/36/c	56/32/pc	Roseburg	58/41/r	59/38/c
John Day	51/32/c	54/31/pc	Salem	58/42/sh	59/35/c
Joseph	49/31/c	50/28/pc	Spokane	50/33/c	56/36/pc
Kennewick	62/39/c	67/39/pc	The Dalles	60/41/sh	65/38/pc
Klamath Falls	46/27/r	47/25/sh	Ukiah	50/31/sh	50/28/pc
Lakeview	47/27/sh	48/29/c	Walla Walla	57/41/c	59/42/pc

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES	PHILLIPS LAKE
Snow showers	Cloudy, a shower
32 23	47 31
MT. EMILY REC.	BROWNLEE RES.
Cloudy and chilly	Cloudy, a shower
42 29	54 38
EAGLE CAP WILD.	EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Cloudy, a shower	Showers around
38 23	45 29
WALLOWA LAKE	MCKAY RESERVOIR
A morning shower	A shower
49 31	56 37
THIEF VALLEY RES.	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Cloudy, a shower	Cloudy and cool
54 32	52 32

need MORE

Show Listings, Sudoku, Crosswords, Word Search, Sports Quizzes & More...?

Check out our **new** TV Magazine

EVERY SATURDAY

Baker City Herald THE OBSERVER