

Single woman struggles to connect in new community



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

Dear Abby: I have been living in a 55-plus community in Florida for several years. I'm a single woman, and I moved here for the weather and to meet new friends. In this community, there are "cliques." One does everything together and never includes anyone else. The other is a combination of full-time residents and seasonal residents.

I'm "friendly" with almost everyone in each group. I work with them on committees, in clubs, etc. However, when it comes to socializing in the eve-

nings or at the beach or parties, I'm seldom included by either group. One person told me it was because I'm single; another told me they didn't want me to feel out of place because it was couples. Is this friendship, or should I look for friends elsewhere? — **Ready, Willing And Able**

Dear Ready: No, this is not "friendship." You wrote that one of these cliques isn't open to new members. The women in the second group may not welcome you because they feel threatened by your single status, which is why you are welcomed to "work" with them but not socialize. It's sad really, and more of a reflection on them than on you. By all means look for friends elsewhere, possibly in groups in which there are other

singles. If you do, I'm sure you will have better luck.

Dear Abby: My son, daughter-in-law and 1-year-old granddaughter moved across the country two years ago and have not once come to see us. They promised they would come as often as they could or, I should say, as often as she went to see her parents, which is every four months or so.

They now have a brand-new baby we haven't seen due to COVID-19. We bought them a special iPad to FaceTime with, but it hasn't been used, nor do they ever call us. They actually didn't speak to us for nine months over a perceived slight.

Now they want us to come visit them. We desperately want to see our grandchildren. They

know us only as the "package people" because we send gifts. Please help us figure out what to do. Our son hasn't spoken to his dad in seven months because of this perceived wrong. We feel it will be really uncomfortable for all of us. — **To Go Or Not To Go**

Dear To Go: The longer this estrangement lasts, the more embedded it will become. You need to go, see your grandchildren and mend fences, if possible. Regardless of how the visit turns out, at the least you will have seen your grandchildren. If you make the effort, it may start your family on the path of healing.

Dear Abby: When dining out in restaurants I often see people stack their dirty dishes at

the table before or as the server removes them. This has never seemed right to me. Do I need to change my view of table manners? — **Binnie In Iowa**

Dear Binnie: Try to be a bit less judgmental. Although what you describe is considered a breach of etiquette, there are people who are averse to having dirty dishes in front of them once they have finished eating. In a formal dining establishment, the server should be asked to remove the empty plates.

Dear Readers: Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour at bedtime tonight. And while you're at it, put fresh batteries in your fire alarms and smoke detectors. — **Love, Abby**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

US government works to 'cocoon' old nuclear reactors

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Costs to clean up a massive nuclear weapons complex in Washington state are usually expressed in the hundreds of billions of dollars and involve decades of work.

But one project on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation is progressing at a much lower price.

The federal government is moving forward with the "cocooning" of eight plutonium production reactors at Hanford that will place them in a state of long-term storage to allow radiation inside to dissipate over a period of decades, until they can be dismantled and buried.

"It's relatively nonexpensive," Mark French, a manager for the U.S. Department of Energy, said of cocooning. "The cost of trying to dismantle the reactor and demolish the reactor core would be extremely expensive and put workers at risk."

The federal government built nine nuclear reactors at Hanford to make plutonium for atomic bombs during World War II and the Cold War. The site along the Columbia River contains America's largest quantity of radioactive waste.

The reactors are now shut down and sit like cement fortresses near the southeastern Washington city of Richland. Six have already been cocooned for



The decommissioned plutonium-producing DR reactor, left, and D reactor, right, are shown on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, June 13, 2017, near Richland, Washington. The federal government is moving forward with the cost-saving "cocooning" of eight plutonium production reactors at Hanford that will place them in a state of long-term storage for decades to allow radiation inside to dissipate until they can be dismantled and buried.

long-term storage, and two more are headed in that direction. The ninth reactor was turned into a museum as part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

While World War II ended in 1945 and the Cold War ended in 1989, the United States is still paying billions of dollars for the disposal of the nuclear waste produced by the atomic weapons that played a big role in ending those conflicts. The biggest expense is dealing with a massive volume of liquid wastes left over from the production of plutonium, a key ingredient in nuclear weapons.

While the liquid wastes stored in 177 underground

tanks will take decades of work and hundreds of billions of dollars to clean, efforts to secure the nine plutonium reactors are much closer to completion.

The last two reactors, shut down in 1970 and 1971, are about to enter the cocooning stage, when they are covered with steel and cement to prevent radioactivity from escaping into the environment, French said.

The cocoons are expected to last about 75 years, by which time the radioactivity inside will have dramatically decreased and there presumably will be a plan for final disposition of the remaining parts, French said.

Every five years, workers

enter the reactor building to make sure there are no leaks or rodent or bird infestations, he said.

Cleanup of Hanford, which has about 11,000 employees and is half the size of Rhode Island, started in the late 1980s, and now costs about \$2.5 billion per year. The work has been slowed by technical issues, lack of funding, lawsuits from state regulators, worker exposure to radiation and turnover of contractors on the complex job.

But the handling of the old reactors is a bright spot.

The nine reactors — called B Reactor, C Reactor, D Reactor, DR Reactor, F Reactor, H Reactor, K-East Reactor, K-West Reactor,

and N Reactor — were built from 1943 through 1965.

They were constructed next to the Columbia River because of the abundance of hydropower and cooling water needed by the reactors during operation.

All have been cocooned except K-East and K-West. Work on cocooning the K-East reactor has already started and should be finished by 2023, French said. Work on the K-West reactor is scheduled for completion in 2026.

The cocoon plan for K-East and K-West is to basically construct steel buildings around them. Each building is 158 feet (48.2 meters) long, 151 feet (46 meters) wide and 123 feet (37.5 meters) tall, French said. The two steel buildings will cost less than \$10 million each.

Future generations will decide the final disposition of the eight reactors, French said. They will likely be dismantled and buried in the central area of the Hanford site, away from the river.

"Robots may be deployed in the future" for that work, French said.

Hanford watchdogs generally agree with this process, said Tom Carpenter, director of the Seattle-based watchdog group Hanford Challenge.

"Nobody is raising any concerns about cocooning," Carpenter said. "We're all worried about the tank waste that needs immediate and urgent attention."

The bigger question is

whether future generations will be willing to pay the massive costs of Hanford cleanup, he said.

Carpenter said the estimated cost to completely clean up just the tank wastes at the Hanford site is around \$660 billion.

"It's rather grim. It's multigenerational," he said.

"This will cost more than anyone thought possible," Carpenter said of the tank wastes and other wastes that were dumped into the ground at Hanford. "It's a hidden cost of the (nuclear) buildup."

By then, there might be bigger budget concerns such as dealing with the effects of climate change, Carpenter said.

The most intriguing of the old reactors is the B Reactor, the first one built during World War II. It will not be cocooned, and can be visited by tourists at the national historical park. B Reactor, which shut down in 1968, was cleaned up enough to allow some 10,000 tourists to visit each year and learn the history of Hanford. It has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Plutonium from Hanford's B Reactor was used in the testing of the world's first atomic bomb in July 1945. Called the Trinity Test, the bomb was blown up in the New Mexico desert. Hanford plutonium was also used for the bomb that was dropped over Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny and chilly	Breezy in the afternoon	A couple of showers	A bit of snow and rain
Baker City	25	47 24	46 35	44 31	44 30
Comfort Index™	1	1	1	0	0
La Grande	29	46 28	46 42	49 38	44 36
Comfort Index™	0	2	1	0	0
Enterprise	23	42 26	44 37	47 32	42 39
Comfort Index™	0	3	3	1	0

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	61°	63°	64°
Low Thursday	36°	39°	45°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.04	0.14	0.07
Month to date	0.09	0.23	0.13
Normal month to date	0.09	0.25	0.31
Year to date	4.44	8.63	18.64
Normal year to date	7.57	13.83	19.34

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	High: 93°	Low: 12°	Wettest: 1.28"
	El Centro, Calif.	Alamosa, Colo.	Harlingen, Texas
OREGON	High: 68°	Low: 34°	Wettest: 1.10"
	Ontario	Odell Lake	Tillamook

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	S at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	0.2
Evapotranspiration	0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Reservoir	Capacity
Phillips Reservoir	N.A.
Unity Reservoir	11% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	12% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	14% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	6% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	1% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Stream	Flow (cfs)
Grande Ronde at Troy	736 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	0 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	18 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	46 cfs
Minam River at Minam	104 cfs
Powder River near Richland	8 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

On Nov. 6, 1953, a coastal storm brought 3 inches of snow to Richmond, Va., and up to 18 inches to Philadelphia. Wind gusts reached 98 mph at Block Island, R.I.

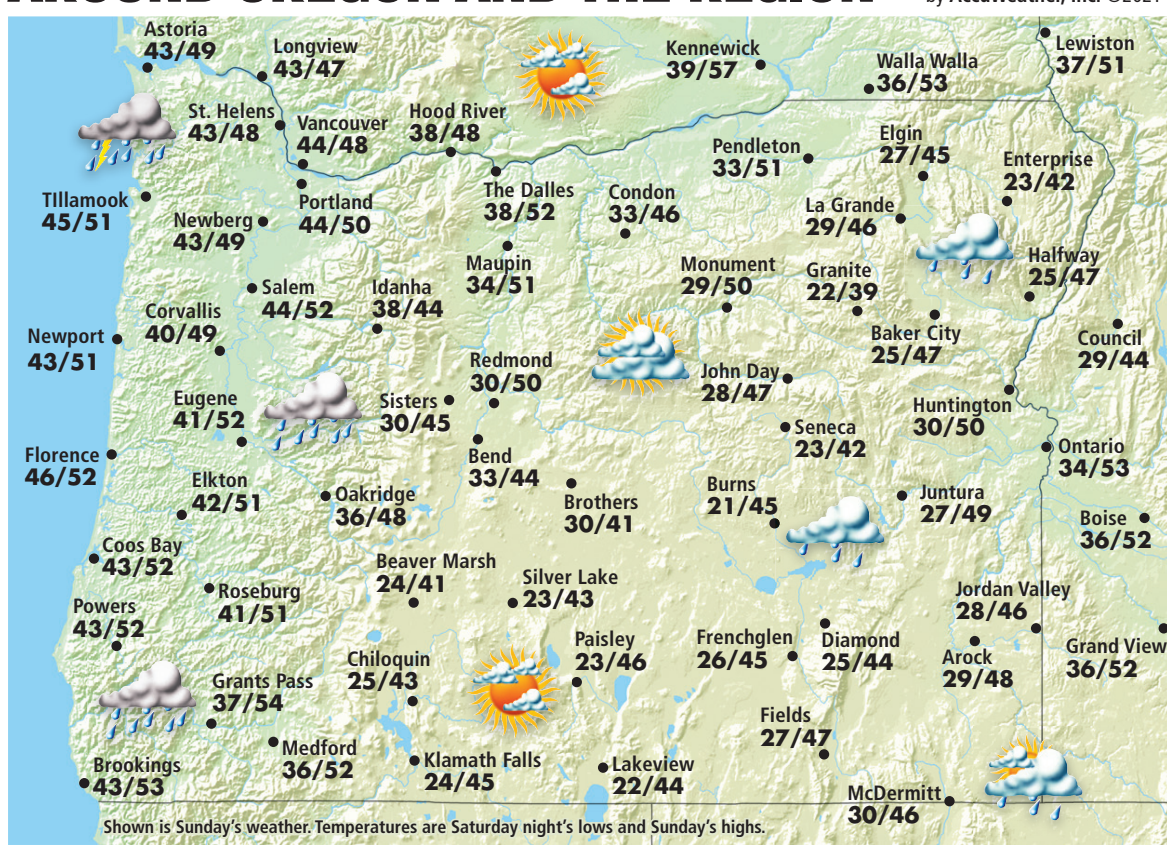
SUN & MOON

	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	7:39 a.m.	6:40 a.m.
Sunset	5:33 p.m.	4:31 p.m.
Moonrise	10:01 a.m.	10:21 a.m.
Moonset	6:55 p.m.	6:47 p.m.



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W	City	SUN. Hi/Lo/W	MON. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	49/41/r	52/44/c	Lewiston	51/35/pc	52/41/pc
Bend	44/28/c	48/44/pc	Longview	47/39/r	50/44/c
Boise	52/33/c	51/42/pc	Meacham	46/27/sf	49/42/c
Brookings	53/43/r	55/50/r	Medford	52/35/r	52/46/c
Burns	45/19/c	48/34/pc	Newport	51/42/r	52/46/c
Coos Bay	52/38/r	56/48/c	Olympia	48/38/r	48/40/c
Corvallis	49/38/r	49/45/c	Ontario	53/29/pc	54/42/pc
Council	44/23/pc	48/33/c	Pasco	55/34/s	56/41/c
Elgin	45/26/pc	47/39/c	Pendleton	51/33/pc	56/48/c
Eugene	52/38/r	52/44/c	Portland	50/42/r	51/45/c
Hermiston	56/34/s	56/48/c	Powers	52/37/r	57/50/r
Hood River	48/34/r	47/43/c	Redmond	50/30/pc	51/40/c
Imnaha	47/31/sf	48/42/c	Roseburg	51/37/r	55/48/c
John Day	47/28/pc	49/41/c	Salem	52/41/r	53/47/c
Joseph	43/28/c	40/35/pc	Spokane	45/32/pc	46/35/c
Kennewick	57/36/s	54/46/c	The Dalles	52/35/r	50/43/c
Klamath Falls	45/22/c	46/35/pc	Ukiah	43/26/pc	47/40/pc
Lakeview	44/19/c	45/33/pc	Walla Walla	53/35/pc	52/44/c

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

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Partly sunny; cold	22	15
MT. EMILY REC.	Cold	33	26
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Cold	27	13
WALLOWA LAKE	Mostly cloudy	43	28
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Partly sunny	47	24
PHILLIPS LAKE	Partly sunny	41	22
BROWNLEE RES.	Sunny intervals	48	26
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	A snow shower	41	21
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Partial sunshine	52	34
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Partly sunny	46	28