# Old friend seeks encouraging words for mother of a criminal

DEAR ABBY

*DEAR ABBY: What do you say when a friend's son has committed a horrific crime? Does one say, "I'm sorry" or "Call me," or merely pat them on the shoulder and move on? Or, what?*

*I know she is suffering and blames herself for his crime. How do I even approach her? I knew her quite well until I moved away and started my life on an opposite coast. Telling her what her son did is not her fault somehow seems trite.*

*I'm sure other people have been in this kind of situation. I found out about the young man's crime from the news media. I haven't been in contact with his mother for some time, which makes me feel awkward.*

*— LOST FOR WORDS*

DEAR LOST: The time to be a friend is when somebody needs one. I'm sure your friend could use some emotional support right now. If you have her phone number, call her and tell her you know she's hurting, and she's in your thoughts and prayers. Tell her you are with her in spirit and hope she knows you care about her and her son. Then listen. There's not much more you can do than that.

*DEAR ABBY: I've been seeing this guy, "Jason," for a year and eight months. I love him and he loves me, but I've been offered a really good job about three hours from where we live. It is a job I've been wanting for a long time, with retirement, pension and other benefits. Once I get in and there's an opening here, I can apply and move back.*

*Jason doesn't want me to accept the job because he says long-distance relationships never work. I told him I'm willing to try. Is it selfish of me to accept this job in spite of being in a relationship with someone I want a future with, knowing it could possibly break us up?*

*— CONFUSED IN THE WEST*

DEAR CONFUSED: It's not selfish. "Selfish" is a boyfriend (not even a fiance) who would expect you to pass up an opportunity that offers retirement, pension and other benefits knowing how important it is to you. Mature adults are able to defer gratification and forgo an immediate reward in anticipation of a later one. Please remember that.

*DEAR ABBY: I am almost 14 and entering high school. I am really scared and don't know what to do. I just want to go to class, study hard, get good grades and get out. But it's not that simple. Can you give me some advice about high school and what I should watch out for?*

*— SCARED OF HIGH SCHOOL IN PENNSYLVANIA*

DEAR SCARED: Calm your fears. It may comfort you to know every student feels the way you do when first entering high school. It's a new environment, and you will encounter new people.

Be nice to everyone, and most of them will like you. That's how friendships are made. Look for extracurricular activities that interest you, and join some if you can. You already know you will need to study hard. If you do, good grades will follow.

As to what you should watch out for: If some of the other students are doing things that you consider wrong, don't join in. And keep in mind there's a school counselor you can talk to if you have any problems or concerns.

*DEAR ABBY: A friend I really like has been extremely helpful baby-sitting my 4-month-old son every once in a while. The problem is, she informed me that she rubs his gums and lets him chew on her fingers. I find this gross and strange. Clean fingers or not, I'd prefer she not do this. She only has him a couple of hours at a time, and he has teething toys.*

*Am I overreacting? If not, how do I politely inform my friend that I'd rather she not put her fingers in my baby's mouth? I can't think of a way to explain it that wouldn't offend her.*

*— OFF LIMITS IN IDAHO*

DEAR OFF LIMITS: What your friend is doing is neither gross nor strange. She was probably trying to soothe your teething baby who was showing signs of discomfort. Her fingers may have been more comfortable to chew on than the hard toy. However, you are the parent and if you prefer no more fingers in your baby's mouth, you should tell that to your friend and she shouldn't take offense.

# For-profit firefighters find work in at-risk county

**By Emily Cureton**
Oregon Public Radio

PORTLAND — No one was home at a house deep in the woods of Josephine County, Oregon. The people who live here had evacuated days ago along with hundreds of their neighbors. As flames from the Taylor Creek Fire got closer and closer, the firefighters showed up.

They came to prepare for the worst so that if the wind picked up, they'd be ready to dash down the driveway and save this house, even if the forest burned around it.

The firefighters protecting this house were structure protection specialists from 100 miles away, called in by the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

The firefighters who normally cover this neighborhood work at private companies. That means the people who know these steep hollows and their microclimates best don't have a formalized role in this emergency operation.

"When it comes to recognition within the state level fire service. We don't exist," said Phil Turnbull, the local chief of Rural/Metro, a national company filling public safety gaps across the West.

In Josephine County, Rural/Metro is the largest of two for-profit fire departments serving a geographic area more than twice the size of Portland. When wildland fire threatens homes covered by private crews, they're out there risking their lives right alongside public agencies and the contractors they bring in.

But without recognition through state law, Turnbull said this cooperation happens informally, almost "on the sly."

"Nobody is arguing that we don't have a responsibility or a contractual obligation to our customers. But here we have a fire threatening hundreds of homes, and three out of every 10 homes up there have not been paying for fire protection, at least to us," Turnbull said.

Rural/Metro is subscription based. The average member pays a few hundred dollars a year. And no, the firefighters don't let houses burn down if the owners don't subscribe. Turnbull said first responders don't pay attention to the funding mechanisms when they're dispatched by 911.

"(The person) will, however, receive a bill," he said.

For non-members, that bill could easily exceed $10,000. This includes people who get help because of a car accident or medical emergency.

Turnbull described how he and some friends tried to start a public fire department in the early 1970s.

"We discovered very quickly that there was no real community support for that whatsoever," he said.

Raising local property taxes was a nonstarter. But they still wanted to professionalize firefighting. At the time, the only option for structure protection was a small, mom-and-pop operation doing what it could with outdated equipment.

Eventually, Turnbull and that first crew figured out how to convince people to pay for something new: by making home insurance rates drop if they supported a professional force. Just like taxes, the rates depend on property value.

It worked. He said they had a profitable company after a few years, and it was eventually acquired by a national chain. Now they maintain the same safety standards as public agencies.

But those standards are voluntary, Turnbull said. Therein lies one of the rubs, according to a guy who's spent his entire adult life firefighting in this community.

"I'm not even an advocate of fire protection should all be private, or it should all be public. That's irrelevant. That's funding mechanisms. But it should work," he said.

So does it work?

Faced with that question, he paused. He praised his crews and his company. They put out fires admirably, he said.

But in the long run?

"We're allowing it to work well enough," he said. "And we're trapped because you can't take a step backwards."

He said broad, community-wide planning isn't possible with 10,000 individual subscriptions.

Competition between fire departments can create more problems.

Josephine County Commissioner Lily Morgan said she's gotten calls from constituents unhappy about that.

"I have received complaints from citizens who chose the company they felt was best for their needs and yet they get a bill from the alternate one who got dispatched by 911 and they didn't feel that was fair," Morgan said.

Officials can't force a public department on voters, who have resoundingly shot down the idea more than once over the years.

"It's not that we don't care about each other, or that we aren't grateful for the help," Morgan said. "It's a community that does not believe in big government. They don't want more involvement of government in their lives."

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# weather

| | TONIGHT | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Hazy and smoky | Hazy sunshine and smoky | Dimmed sun and smoky | Sunny and pleasant | Mostly sunny and nice |
| Baker City | 50 | 84 49 | 87 46 | 89 46 | 83 41 |
| Comfort Index™ | 10 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| La Grande | 54 | 84 52 | 87 54 | 88 51 | 81 46 |
| Comfort Index™ | 8 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| Enterprise | 49 | 81 51 | 84 50 | 85 48 | 79 44 |
| Comfort Index™ | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 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 Sunday | 92° | 93° | 94° |
| Low Sunday | 46° | 45° | 47° |
| **PRECIPITATION** (inches) | | | |
| Sunday | 0.00 | Trace | 0.00 |
| Month to date | Trace | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Normal month to date | 0.41 | 0.51 | 0.38 |
| Year to date | 4.75 | 10.31 | 20.78 |
| Normal year to date | 6.77 | 10.53 | 14.75 |

## AGRICULTURAL INFO.

| HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY | |
|---|---|
| Lowest relative humidity | 25% |
| Afternoon wind | N at 4 to 8 mph |
| Hours of sunshine | 8.9 |
| Evapotranspiration | 0.21 |
| **RESERVOIR STORAGE** (through midnight Sunday) | |
| Phillips Reservoir | 18% of capacity |
| Unity Reservoir | 31% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir | 43% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir | 46% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake | 15% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 14% of capacity |
| **STREAM FLOWS** (through midnight Sunday) | |
| Grande Ronde at Troy | 476 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 92 cfs |
| Burnt River near Unity | 122 cfs |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon | 36 cfs |
| Minam River at Minam | 66 cfs |
| Powder River near Richland | 42 cfs |

## SUNDAY EXTREMES

| NATION (for the 48 contiguous states) | |
|---|---|
| High: 122° | Death Valley, Calif. |
| Low: 32° | Bodie State Park, Calif. |
| Wettest: 3.84" | Orlando, Fla. |
| **OREGON** | |
| High: 97° | Rome |
| Low: 39° | Meacham |
| Wettest: 0.13" | Meacham |

## WEATHER HISTORY

By Aug. 21, 1888, a massive lightning-induced fire that consumed six billion board feet of lumber in the northern Rockies was finally contained. By then, the fire had claimed 851 lives.

## SUN & MOON

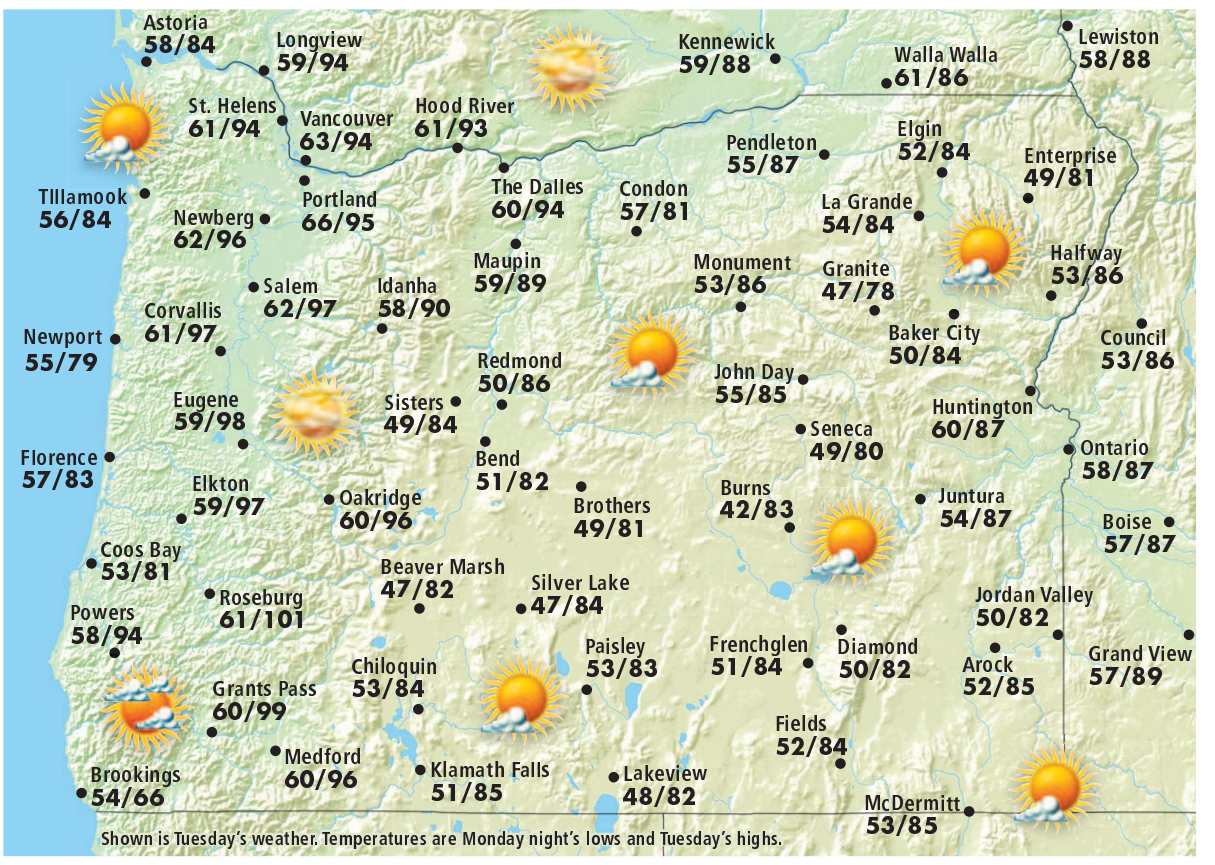
| | MON. | TUE. |
|---|---|---|
| Sunrise | 5:59 a.m. | 6:00 a.m. |
| Sunset | 7:52 p.m. | 7:50 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 4:13 p.m. | 5:04 p.m. |
| Moonset | 12:52 a.m. | 1:34 a.m. |

**MOON PHASES**

| Full | Last | New | First |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug 26 | Sep 2 | Sep 9 | Sep 16 |

## AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018




Shown is Tuesday's weather. Temperatures are Monday night's lows and Tuesday's highs.

## REGIONAL CITIES

| City | TUE. Hi/Lo/W | WED. Hi/Lo/W | City | TUE. Hi/Lo/W | WED. Hi/Lo/W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Astoria | 84/56/pc | 70/57/s | Lewiston | 88/61/pc | 91/62/pc |
| Bend | 82/51/pc | 88/50/pc | Longview | 94/58/s | 89/58/s |
| Boise | 87/62/pc | 89/60/pc | Meacham | 82/48/pc | 86/52/s |
| Brookings | 66/51/pc | 60/51/s | Medford | 96/62/pc | 95/60/pc |
| Burns | 83/45/pc | 86/43/pc | Newport | 79/52/s | 63/54/s |
| Coos Bay | 81/54/pc | 67/56/s | Olympia | 91/53/pc | 91/53/s |
| Corvallis | 97/58/s | 90/53/s | Ontario | 87/58/s | 89/57/pc |
| Council | 86/54/pc | 85/54/pc | Pasco | 88/55/pc | 94/57/pc |
| Elgin | 84/52/pc | 87/54/s | Pendleton | 87/57/pc | 92/64/pc |
| Eugene | 98/56/s | 93/53/s | Portland | 95/62/s | 95/60/s |
| Hermiston | 88/53/pc | 95/64/pc | Powers | 94/58/pc | 82/54/s |
| Hood River | 93/60/pc | 95/62/pc | Redmond | 86/48/pc | 90/49/pc |
| Imnaha | 86/58/pc | 90/60/s | Roseburg | 101/62/s | 94/58/s |
| John Day | 85/53/pc | 88/55/pc | Salem | 97/59/s | 95/55/s |
| Joseph | 81/50/pc | 83/50/pc | Spokane | 80/58/pc | 88/61/pc |
| Kennewick | 88/54/pc | 96/63/pc | The Dalles | 94/59/pc | 97/63/pc |
| Klamath Falls | 85/49/pc | 86/47/pc | Ukiah | 80/47/pc | 86/50/s |
| Lakeview | 82/40/s | 84/42/s | Walla Walla | 86/62/pc | 92/68/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 TUESDAY

**ANTHONY LAKES**
Cooler
57 39

**MT. EMILY REC.**
Not as warm
70 48

**EAGLE CAP WILD.**
Dimmed sunshine
66 39

**WALLOWA LAKE**
Dimmed sunshine
80 49

**THIEF VALLEY RES.**
Dimmed sunshine
86 50

**PHILLIPS LAKE**
Dimmed sunshine
80 47

**BROWNLEE RES.**
Dimmed sunshine
87 56

**EMIGRANT ST. PARK**
Dimmed sunshine
76 42

**MCKAY RESERVOIR**
Dimmed sunshine
88 56

**RED BRIDGE ST. PARK**
Dimmed sunshine
83 54

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