

Friend can’t hold tongue about woman’s pattern of bad choices

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who’s 22 and has two children, which I helped her to deliver. She is also my neighbor. Since she moved in and divorced her husband, my husband and I have watched her make bad choices over and over again, starting with the derelict men she dates to the way she gets drunk, then drives her paper route at night. She blows her money on tattoos and then asks us for food. It’s become exhausting.

She’s now dating another man who’s obviously using her. I have a hard time not telling him off when I see him. He won’t get a job and he keeps her in perpetual relationship limbo, which forces her to focus all her attention on him and neglect her children and home.

What can I do? I value her so much I lose sleep. She constantly posts on social media that she’s lonely and everyone always leaves her, but she gets mad at me for telling her where she keeps going wrong. Why can’t she understand that she’s doing this to herself? How can I help her see her errors, so she can move on from this awful phase?

— CARING FRIEND IN FLORIDA

DEAR CARING FRIEND: Your friend has a job. If she weren’t supporting her boyfriend, she would be able to support herself and her children. The more you give her, the more reliant she will become on your handouts.

Take it from a professional: The most unwelcome advice is that which is unasked for, which is why she gets angry when you try to tell her what she’s doing wrong. She doesn’t want to hear it. The way to get someone like this to recognize her “errors” is to stop trying to save her from them.

You can’t fix what’s wrong in her life — only she can do that — so step back. If you really think her children are going hungry, contact child protective services, so those kids can get the help they need.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé and I are both 68. We have been engaged for a year now. When we shopped for an engagement ring, we also purchased wedding bands because the jewelry store was having a sale.

Because of our ages, I have come to feel that there is no compelling reason to get married. It would be a big legal hassle, and there’s no reason why we just cannot live together. He agrees. However, we have made a commitment to each other, and I call him my husband and he calls me his wife.

My question is, would it be OK for us to wear

the wedding bands, even though we are not legally married? I wonder if other couples have done this having made that commitment to each other. Your thoughts?

— HAPPILY TOGETHER

DEAR HAPPILY: No law forbids the two of you from wearing wedding rings and calling yourselves married. Others have done it. In some states, after a period of time, the arrangement would become a common-law marriage. However,

before making a final decision to do this, you and your fiancé should discuss it with a lawyer. There are certain guarantees and benefits to being legally wed, because spouses have rights of inheritance and decision-making in case of illness that unwed couples do not enjoy.

DEAR ABBY: My 3-year-old grandson hurts animals. He’s intelligent and articulate. He understands many concepts about all kinds of things. Frankly, I’m scared. It’s because he is so intelligent and high-functioning. I feel he should have more empathy than he does.

He has been doing this off and on for the last couple of years. My daughter, my husband and I have been discouraging it the whole time. He gets timeouts, stern talks and toys taken away. It doesn’t work. My daughter has started swatting his bottom or his leg hoping he will understand it is unacceptable. She isn’t comfortable hitting him and neither am I. My grandson knows better. I know he does.

My daughter called me this afternoon, upset because he hurt their dog again. Must we get rid of these pets? No one wants to do that. When is it too much? How can we make it stop?

— AGHAST IN ALABAMA

DEAR AGHAST: It is already “too much.” Your grandson’s behavior isn’t normal. Because he seems unable to appropriately interact with these helpless animals, he shouldn’t be allowed to be around them without constant supervision. For the dog’s own safety, another home should be found for it before it’s hurt again.

Your grandson may be acting out of anger, because he has been physically or sexually abused himself or has witnessed domestic violence. This is why it’s extremely important he be seen by a licensed mental health professional, who can advise his parents — and you — about how this should be handled. Without intervention, the boy’s behavior could escalate, and he could seriously injure another child.

Big rigs abandoned as wildfire scorches California freeway

■ 45-mile stretch of Interstate 5 near Oregon border in California closed, other highways closed throughout state

By Noah Berger and Paul Elias

Associated Press

SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. — Truckers abandoned big-rigs and motorists screamed in fear as they came dangerously close to an explosive wildfire that shut down about 45 miles of a major California interstate near the Oregon border that authorities were desperately trying to reopen.

In a video, a passenger in a vehicle screams: “Oh my God, I want to go!” as nearby trees burst into flames. “I can’t breathe,” the woman says, sobbing. “Please, guys, come put it out.”

The fire erupted Wednesday afternoon in a rural area and devoured timber and brush on both sides of Interstate 5 as it nearly tripled in size overnight, officials said Thursday.

Elsewhere in the state, a fire raging in the Sierra Nevada had grown to more than 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) after shutting down stretches of U.S. 395, State Route 108 and the Pacific Crest Trail along the eastern spine of California.

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, campgrounds and other areas were evacuated Wednesday. Ranchers were told to prepare to move livestock out of the area in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The two fires Thursday were raging just weeks after a blaze in the Redding area killed eight people and burned some 1,100 homes in a frightening start to the fire season.

California’s insurance commissioner said Thursday that victims of that fire and one in the Mendocino area — the two largest blazes in the state so far this year — have filed more than 10,000 claims so far totaling \$845 million.

The two fires destroyed or damaged a combined 8,800 homes and 329 businesses.

“The worst may be yet to come,” Commissioner David Jones warned at a San Francisco news conference, noting that California wildfires are typically more destructive after

Sept. 1.

The blaze Thursday along Interstate 5 has blackened 23 square miles (60 square kilometers), prompting mandatory evacuations. It was moving rapidly but was still far from any large towns.

Officials from a number of agencies were meeting Thursday to determine if they can reopen the highway, a key route for commercial trucks, California Highway Patrol Officer Jason Morton said.

The highway runs north from the Mexico border through California, Oregon and Washington state to the border with Canada.

The scattered homes and cabins in and around Shasta-Trinity National Forest were under evacuation orders, from the community of Lakehead north to the Siskiyou County line, said Chris Losi, a spokesman for the forest.

“It isn’t a lot of people,” he said. The blaze was human-caused, officials said, without indicating whether it was arson or an accident.

About 17 big-rigs were abandoned along the interstate and at least four caught fire, Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Foster of the California Highway Patrol’s Mount Shasta office told the Los Angeles Times. At least two trucks were partially melted.

U.S. Forest Service workers helped the driver of one flaming truck to safety. Truckers, firefighters and others aided more drivers.

“There’s vehicles scattered all over,” Brandon Vaccaro of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection told the Redding Record Searchlight. “Whatever occurred here was probably pretty ugly for a while.”

About 45 miles (72 kilometers) of I-5 were closed in both directions, Losi said. The blaze also delayed Amtrak’s Coast Starlight train service between Sacramento and Oregon.

The city of Dunsmuir, with about 1,500 residents, was about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the flames. Residents were urged to be prepared to leave if the fire threatened.

weather

TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Turning out clear	Mostly sunny; not as warm	Sunny and delightful	Mostly sunny and nice	Partial sunshine
Baker City 51 Comfort Index™ 4	79 42 10	83 45 9	77 42 10	69 40 8
La Grande 53 Comfort Index™ 6	76 45 10	81 44 9	72 43 10	68 42 8
Enterprise 51 Comfort Index™ 6	74 44 10	79 45 8	72 42 10	68 41 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 Thursday	94°	90°	91°
Low Thursday	44°	43°	45°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.00	0.02	0.00
Normal month to date	0.13	0.14	0.15
Year to date	4.75	10.50	20.95
Normal year to date	7.20	11.01	15.18

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	25%
Afternoon wind	NW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	9.1
Evapotranspiration	0.20

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)	
Phillips Reservoir	12% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	18% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	37% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	39% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	8% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	496 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	2 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	94 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	45 cfs
Minam River at Minam	56 cfs
Powder River near Richland	28 cfs

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 113°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 28°	International Falls, Minn.
Wettest: 4.40"	Greenwood, Miss.
OREGON	
High: 96°	Ontario
Low: 37°	Meacham
Wettest: Trace	Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

On Sept. 8, 1943, widespread smog was noted around Los Angeles for the first time. In Los Angeles, cool air from the Pacific is capped by warm air aloft which traps pollutants.

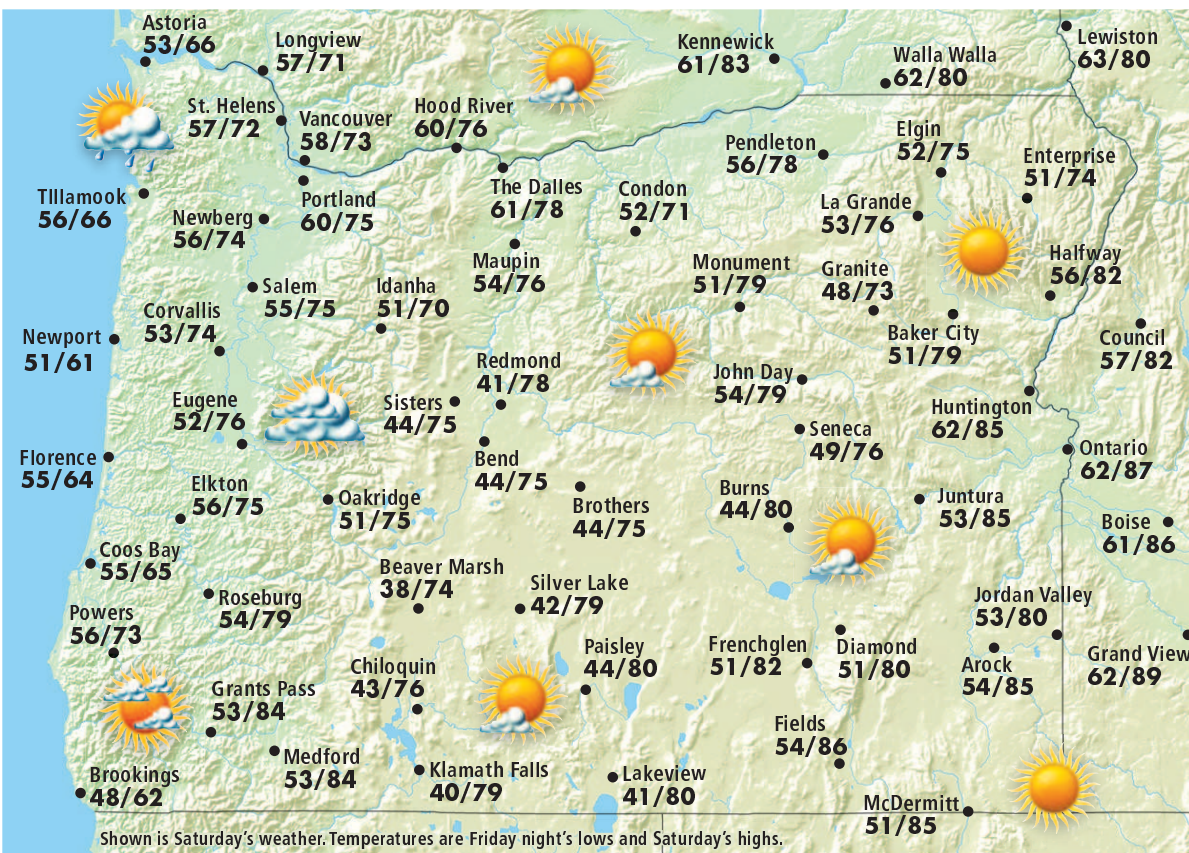
SUN & MOON

	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	6:21 a.m.	6:22 a.m.
Sunset	7:19 p.m.	7:17 p.m.
Moonrise	3:32 a.m.	4:48 a.m.
Moonset	6:27 p.m.	7:05 p.m.

MOON PHASES			
New	First	Full	Last
			
Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 24	Oct 2

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W	City	SAT. HI/LO/W	SUN. HI/LO/W
Astoria	66/51/c	66/54/pc	Lewiston	80/54/s	81/54/s
Bend	75/41/s	79/42/s	Longview	71/53/c	72/56/pc
Boise	86/54/s	87/57/s	Meacham	73/42/s	78/41/s
Brookings	62/47/pc	60/51/pc	Medford	84/52/s	84/50/s
Burns	80/38/s	82/38/s	Newport	61/48/pc	60/52/s
Coos Bay	65/50/pc	64/56/pc	Olympia	69/48/c	71/51/pc
Corvallis	74/44/pc	74/53/s	Ontario	87/51/s	86/54/s
Council	82/48/s	82/47/s	Pasco	82/50/pc	83/53/s
Elgin	75/44/s	80/45/s	Pendleton	78/51/s	81/52/s
Eugene	76/46/pc	75/54/s	Portland	75/55/c	77/59/s
Hermiston	82/52/pc	83/57/s	Powers	73/50/s	71/53/s
Hood River	76/54/pc	78/58/s	Redmond	78/37/s	81/38/s
Imnaha	80/49/s	83/51/s	Roseburg	79/49/pc	78/53/s
John Day	79/49/s	83/50/s	Salem	75/47/pc	75/56/s
Joseph	75/44/s	79/44/s	Spokane	74/50/pc	74/52/s
Kennewick	83/52/pc	84/58/s	The Dalles	78/53/pc	80/55/s
Klamath Falls	79/37/s	81/37/s	Ukiah	72/41/s	78/40/s
Lakeview	80/37/s	83/39/s	Walla Walla	80/56/s	81/58/s

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	Sunny	62 41
MT. EMILY REC.	Sunny	74 46
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Sunny and pleasant	72 44
WALLOWA LAKE	Sunny	85 51
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Sunshine	89 51
PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly sunny	84 49
BROWNLEE RES.	Sunny and pleasant	91 59
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Sunny and pleasant	81 42
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Sunny and nice	89 55
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Sunshine and nice	87 53



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