Man with history of cheating is caught on 'hook-up' sites

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my husband of 18 years has been going to "hook-up" websites. He says he was just looking at the pictures, but I don't believe him. I have caught him cheating twice in the past, so it's hard to trust him.

My problem is, he knows I can't leave him because I have no job, no skills, no money — nothing. I went right from my parents' house to living with him after our wedding. We have six kids and one on the way. He will continue to go to these websites because he knows I am stuck. What should I do?

— SOON-TO-BE MOTHER OF SEVEN

DEAR SOON-TO-BE MOTHER OF SEVEN: The first thing you should do is see your doctor and be checked for STDs. If you are well, thank your higher power. If you aren't, get treatment, get well and talk to a lawyer. Your situation may not be as hopeless as you think.

Have you any relatives or friends you can stay with when you leave, change your life and become self-supporting? It may require job training and time, but please consider it.

I doubt your husband will have much time for philandering if he has six kids to take care of by himself in addition to his job. I also doubt that few, if any, women he might be hooking up with would welcome becoming the instant mother of six. And one more thing, from now on, please use birth control.

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for 30 years. During this time, my ex-wife has rarely spoken to me, and in the last 10 years said not one word to me. There have been many occasions and events at my son's home to celebrate my granddaughter's birthday, etc. My ex and many other people attend, but basically, no one speaks to me. I am totally ignored.

I have a strong hunch that during the divorce my ex told people I hit or abused her. (Not true!) She told my sister something to this effect. I believe it was a ploy to distract from the fact she had been cheating on me. Regardless, this situation is extremely hurtful and unpleasant. Any ideas how to deal with this?

— OSTRACIZED AND PARALYZED

DEAR O. & P.: Have you tried to initiate a conversation? Have you asked these people why they give you the silent treatment? They're fair questions.

After 30 years, it is a little late to correct the mindset your ex may have caused these relatives to have about you. But if at this late date you try to spread the word that she was cheating, it will accomplish nothing positive, and I don't advise it.

P.S. If the silence continues, then I recommend you bring someone — a friend or a date — with you to these gatherings. At least you will have someone to talk to.

DEAR ABBY: I have an acquaintance I see occasionally. He recently told me he is getting married. When I congratulated him, I wanted to ask who the lucky groom is because I have often thought he was gay, but I found out he's marrying a woman. What's the appropriate way to ask this question nowadays since all of us can marry, I am happy to say.

— PONDERING IN NEVADA

DEAR PONDERING: A subtle way to ask that question would be, "Congratulations! What's your lucky fiance's (-ee's) name?"

DEAR ABBY: My son got married eight months ago. I recently found out he and his wife haven't sent thank-you notes to anyone. Some of our friends and family took time off work, traveled across the country, spent a lot of money on airfare, hotels, meals, as well as wedding gifts. I am mortified.

Abby, there were only 60 guests, so there were fewer than 30 thank-you notes to send. When I asked my son about it last week, he said they hadn't sent them because so much time had passed and it was too late. I told him it was inexcusable, and they need to get those notes written now because this is definitely a case of better late than never.

If they don't do it within the next week, I intend to contact my friends and family and thank them myself and apologize for their rudeness. My son was not raised to be ungrateful and rude. What do you think?

— FURIOUS IN ARIZONA

DEAR FURIOUS: What you have in mind may be well-intentioned, but it won't make up for your son and daughter-in-law's lack of courtesy. If they fail to contact the guests who made such an effort to attend their wedding, do not speak up on their behalf because it will only make them look worse.

Fires set stage for irreversible forest losses in Australia

By Matthew Brown and Christina Larson
The Associated Press

Australia's forests are burning at a rate unmatched in modern times and scientists say the landscape is being permanently altered as a warming climate brings profound changes to the island continent.

Heat waves and drought have fueled bigger and more frequent fires in parts of Australia, so far this season torching some 40,000 square miles, an area about as big as Ohio.

With blazes still raging in the country's southeast, government officials are drawing up plans to reseed burned areas to speed up forest recovery that could otherwise take decades or even centuries.

But some scientists and forestry experts doubt that reseeding and other intervention efforts can match the scope of the destruction. The fires since September have killed 28 people and burned more than 2,600 houses.

Before the recent wildfires, ecologists divided up Australia's native vegetation into two categories: fire-adapted landscapes that burn periodically, and those that don't burn. In the recent fires, that distinction lost meaning — even rainforests and peat swamps caught fire, likely changing them forever.

Flames have blazed through jungles dried out by drought, such as Eungella National Park, where shrouds of mist have been replaced by smoke.

"Anybody would have said these forests don't burn, that there's not enough material and they are wet. Well they did," said forest restoration expert Sebastian Pfautsch, a research fellow at Western Sydney University.

"Climate change is happening now, and we are seeing the effects of it," he said.

High temperatures, drought and more frequent wildfires — all linked to climate change — may make it impossible for even fire-adapted forests to be fully restored, scientists say.

"The normal processes of recovery are going to be less effective, going to take longer," said Roger Kitching, an ecologist at Griffith University in Queensland. "Instead of an ecosystem taking a decade, it may take a century or more to recover, all assuming we don't get another fire season of this magnitude soon."

Young stands of mountain ash trees — which are not expected to burn because they have minimal foliage — have burned in the Australian Alps, the highest mountain range on the continent. Fire this year wiped out stands reseeded following fires in 2013.

Mountain ash, the world's tallest flowering trees, reach heights of almost 300 feet and live hundreds of years. They're an iconic presence in southeast Australia, comparable to the redwoods of Northern California, and are highly valued by the timber industry.

"I'm expecting major areas of (tree) loss this year, mainly because we will not have sufficient seed to sow them," said Owen Bassett of Forest Solutions, a private company that works with government agencies to reseed forests by helicopter following fires.

Bassett plans to send out teams to climb trees in parts of Victoria that did not burn to harvest seed pods. But he expects to get at most a ton of seeds this year, about one-tenth of what he said is needed.

Fire is a normal part of an ash forest life cycle, clearing out older stands to make way for new growth. But the extent and intensity of this year's fires left few surviving trees in many areas.

Already ash forests in parts of Victoria had been hit by wildfire every four to five years, allowing less marketable tree species to take over or meadows to form.

"If a young ash forest is burned and killed and we can't resow it, then it is lost," Bassett said.

The changing landscape has major implications for Australia's diverse wildlife. The fires in Eungella National Park, for example, threaten "frogs and reptiles that don't live anywhere else," said University of Queensland ecologist Diana Fisher.

Fires typically burn through the forest in a patchwork pattern, leaving unburned refuges from which plant and animal species can spread. However, megafires are consuming everything in their path and leaving little room for that kind of recovery, said Griffith University's Kitching.

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weather

	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	Rain and drizzle	A few morning showers	A snow shower	Morning rain; overcast	Showers possible
Baker City	30	42 33	44 31	42 33	43 31
Comfort Index™	1	3	3	0	0
La Grande	36	44 38	44 35	43 36	44 26
Comfort Index™	0	2	2	0	4
Enterprise	34	44 36	44 31	44 35	40 25
Comfort Index™	2	4	5	3	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

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Monday	40°	42°	43°
Low Monday	33°	37°	31°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Monday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.12	0.82	5.11
Normal month to date	0.55	1.13	2.15
Year to date	0.12	0.82	5.11
Normal year to date	0.55	1.13	2.15

MONDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 78°	Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -30°	International Falls, Minn.
Wettest: 0.62"	Quillayute, Wash.

OREGON

High: 56°	Florence
Low: 16°	Keno
Wettest: 0.07"	Astoria

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY

Lowest relative humidity	65%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 8 to 16 mph
Hours of sunshine	1.9
Evapotranspiration	0.04

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)

Phillips Reservoir	23% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	46% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	69% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	22% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	43% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	101% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	936 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	74 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	11 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	153 cfs
Minam River at Minam	N.A.
Powder River near Richland	139 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

A record 17.4-inch snowfall on Jan. 22, 1902, in Buffalo, N.Y., was dwarfed by 30 inches in Philadelphia, Pa., on Jan. 8, 1996.

SUN & MOON

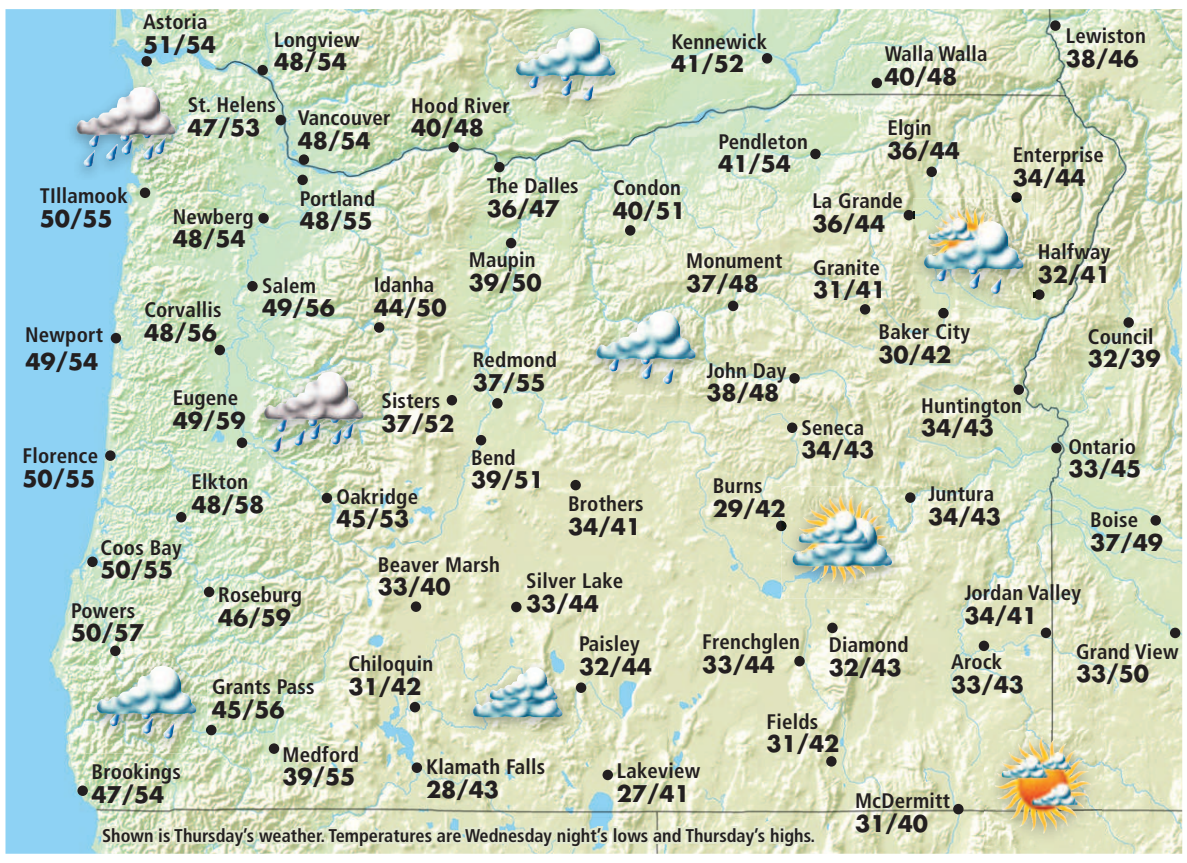
	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	7:24 a.m.	7:23 a.m.
Sunset	4:44 p.m.	4:46 p.m.
Moonrise	5:50 a.m.	6:45 a.m.
Moonset	2:44 p.m.	3:40 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 24	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020



REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W	City	THU. Hi/Lo/W	FRI. Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	54/49/r	54/46/r	Lewiston	46/40/r	51/38/sh
Bend	51/39/c	50/37/c	Longview	54/50/r	55/47/r
Boise	49/38/pc	49/37/c	Meacham	43/37/i	43/33/sf
Brookings	54/48/r	54/48/sh	Medford	55/43/r	56/43/c
Burns	42/30/c	44/29/c	Newport	54/49/r	53/48/r
Coos Bay	55/50/r	56/49/r	Olympia	53/47/r	53/44/r
Corvallis	56/49/r	56/46/r	Ontario	45/34/pc	48/33/sh
Council	39/34/c	39/34/sf	Pasco	53/45/c	59/39/c
Elgin	44/37/r	44/34/sf	Pendleton	54/44/c	56/39/c
Eugene	59/50/r	58/47/r	Portland	55/49/r	56/47/r
Hermiston	52/41/c	58/40/c	Powers	57/50/r	58/50/sh
Hood River	48/40/r	52/39/r	Redmond	55/38/c	55/39/c
Imnaha	47/39/c	47/36/sf	Roseburg	59/47/r	60/48/sh
John Day	48/38/c	47/36/c	Salem	56/50/r	56/47/r
Joseph	43/35/c	43/31/sf	Spokane	41/39/sh	46/35/r
Kennewick	52/44/c	58/39/c	The Dalles	47/40/c	53/39/r
Klamath Falls	43/33/c	47/35/c	Ukiah	44/35/i	43/31/c
Lakeview	41/33/pc	44/30/c	Walla Walla	48/44/c	53/40/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 THURSDAY

ANTHONY LAKES
A little a.m. snow
32 25

MT. EMILY REC.
Snow and sleet
38 34

EAGLE CAP WILD.
A little a.m. snow
33 27

WALLOWA LAKE
Mostly cloudy
43 35

THIEF VALLEY RES.
A morning shower
42 33

PHILLIPS LAKE
A p.m. shower
41 32

BROWNLEE RES.
Cloudy
43 37

EMIGRANT ST. PARK
Cloudy, p.m. rain
41 33

MCKAY RESERVOIR
Not as cool
54 44

RED BRIDGE ST. PARK
Showers around
44 38

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