

Man's devotion to his mom spoils wife's travel plans

DEARABBY: I have been married to my husband for 38 years. We both had long professional careers and saved diligently for our retirement. Our children are on their own and doing well with their careers.

My husband retired six years ago. His daily routine is visiting his mother (every day) in an assisted living facility. It is an expensive place, and they take great care of her. I have just retired. I wanted to do it until I was 67, thinking we could start to travel (not move).

My husband has now informed me doesn't want to go on any two- to three-week vacations because of his mother. He says he needs to see her every day. Abby, the woman is 98 and going strong! There's nothing wrong with her except for some forgetfulness.

I don't understand why he feels he "needs" to see her every day. When I try to question him, he gets angry and upset. He makes me feel like I'm the mean one. This is ruining our marriage. I'm not sure what I can do (if anything) to fix it. Help!

— RANKED SECOND IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR RANKED SECOND: When a man marries, his wife is supposed to take precedence over his mother. However, because your husband "needs" to do this, you cannot be perceived as standing in his way, which will cause further resentment. His motive may be devotion. It could also be a feeling he could have been a better son in years past.

Find it hard to believe no one else could check in on your mother-in-law for the two weeks your husband would be away. (It could be one of your children, a sibling, another relative or a trusted friend.)

Rather than allow this to affect your marriage, why not consider creating a Plan B? Schedule some trips for yourself. While you're away, send him lovely postcards with upbeat messages from the places you visit. When you get back, if he mentions he missed you, assure him you missed him too, but you understand right now his mother is his first priority.

Then tell him that while no one has a contract with God, "with luck" the two of you will have some nice trips together after "Mom" is gone. Provided, of course, that he still wants to travel after her death.

cent girls and young women wearing extremely tight and form-fitting yoga / workout pants?

Last week, while I was leaving a smoothie shop, I held the door open for a young lady whose pants were so tight I could easily see the outline of her private area.

Yesterday, while I was waiting for my drink at a coffee place, a girl in her early teens walked in wearing similar attire. She was with her

dad. In this situation I blame HIM. No father should allow his daughter to wear an outfit in public that leaves nothing to the imagination. These kinds of pants are designed for the gym,

and that should be it. Your opinion?

— CONSERVATIVE GUY IN FLORIDA

DEAR GUY: Obscenity is in the eye of the beholder. While it's possible these young women had just left their workout or yoga lesson, it's more likely they simply find the pants comfortable to wear. My opinion is you should direct your gaze above the beltline, Prince Charming. If their outfits were "indecent," they wouldn't have been allowed inside the businesses.

DEAR ABBY: When I was dating my husband, I gave him a lot of leeway. When he told me he listened to a radio show that is known for unscientific views, I ignored it because I found him so charming and kind. Honestly, he treats me better than anyone I've ever known, and I had been in the dating scene for 27 years. During our three-year courtship I always avoided the topics of science and politics.

We have been married two years now, and I'm trying hard to reconcile the fact that I'm married to a conspiracy theorist who believes the world is flat. He's convinced that fluoride is mass brainwashing and the Holocaust was faked. It makes me so sad. I knew on some level that he believed these things, but I chose to overlook it.

Other than his irrational beliefs, we are compatible and happy. My question is, can a relationship survive and thrive in the midst of these fundamental differences?

— KNOWS BETTER IN KANSAS

DEAR KNOWS BETTER: You say you are compatible and happy in every other respect. Yes, your marriage can survive — if you practice the same selective amnesia you chose to adopt when your husband was courting you, and focus solely on the areas in which you are in sync.



DEAR ABBY

Fire takes toll on firefighters

By Martha Mendoza
The Associated Press

ANDERSON, California — Exhausted and hungry, some 12,000 firefighters are working 24-hour shifts battling deadly California wildfires and becoming resigned to fire seasons that start earlier, burn longer and unleash increasingly unpredictable blazes.

"There's a lot going on up here, endless fires, and they're all characteristically pretty much the same — windy, hot and dry," firefighter James Sweeney said before heading out for a meal and a nap.

Sweeney, from St. Petersburg, Florida, is a "hotshot," part of an elite team of highly trained wildland firefighters who spend fire season battling the fiercest blazes in the country.

Wary after more than a day on the fire lines, the 43-year-old said when his Gila, New Mexico-based crew does leave California, he expects to go north into Oregon, where new fires are kicking up.

"These days it's crazy," he said. "We give up our whole life all summer."

Crews made progress this weekend on the Carr Fire near Redding, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) north of San Francisco. But it was still threatening thousands of homes and was not expected to be fully contained until mid-August at the earliest.

For many of the firefighters slamming down 9,000-calorie meals between shifts, the nonstop effort has become routine.

Last year, a fast-moving series of fires in Santa Rosa, just north of San Francisco, and elsewhere in Northern California killed 44 people and destroyed more than 8,000 structures. Last December's Thomas Fire near Santa Barbara burned almost 282,000 acres (440 square miles), becoming the largest wildfire in California history.

In his 19 years on the job, Cal Fire Capt. Chris Anthony said the most significant change is that hotter, drier conditions now mean that firefighters are trained to take a "tactical pause" to reconsider before charging in against the flames.

"Fire has become a lot more unpredictable," he said. "In the past we could plan, but these days a fire can take a sudden and deadly turn."

That's what happened Thursday, when the fire near Redding pivoted and exploded in size, taking down hundreds of homes and killing five people, two of them firefighters. Another firefighter was killed earlier in the month battling a giant fire near Yosemite

National Park.

Firefighter Jason Campbell was on the front lines Thursday near Yosemite when the Carr Fire destroyed his home, an RV and a boat near Redding. Redding Police Chief Roger Moore also lost his home.

Capt. Jarrett Grassl, a 19-year veteran who works for the Higgins Fire District in Northern California, said his crew ran into homeowners trying to save their own properties. The threat to homes reflects the shrinking divide between wilderness and urban areas.

"Every year it seems to be a bigger problem," Grassl said Saturday, in 110-degree weather with zero precipitation.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said he can see the fatigue on the faces of the firefighters when they come in to refuel.

"What really helps to encourage them is a thank you," Bosenko said Sunday. "Maybe something posted near the fence that gives them encouragement ... that is a big plus for the firefighters that are coming in to recover."

Fighting wildfires is almost always dangerous and grueling, but experienced firefighters said the Carr Fire has been even hotter, drier and more erratic than they are accustomed to.

Crews used shovels, hoses and chain saws to corral giant walls of flame that burned through canyons and up steep gulches. The air was thick with smoke and dust as they hauled heavy gear up and down unstable hillsides, grabbing gulps of water whenever they could. They largely worked in silence, with the sound of crashing tree limbs and roaring flames drowning out radios.

Nevada County Fire Capt. Nathan Mentch calls California's weather system "the prolonged summer." Replenishing fire hose gear after spending the night protecting a Redding neighborhood, he said he was surprised by how quickly the fire spread.

"The winds came in," he said. "It was out of control."

But 13 years into his career, that chaos is something he's come to expect.

There was one small bright spot in his last shift. As flames leaped from one pine to the next, creating a canopy of fire, his team stopped its truck in a driveway near scattered oak trees, expecting the wildfire to continue unchecked.

"But this one oak, it slowed it down," he said. "I don't know why, but it just didn't torch off. And that allowed us to turn the fire from those homes, to be proactive instead of reactive."

weather

| | TONIGHT | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
|------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Increasing cloudiness | | Partly sunny and very hot | Mostly sunny and warm | Sunny and pleasant | Mostly sunny and pleasant |
| Baker City | 55 | 102 58 | 97 53 | 89 46 | 86 46 |
| Comfort Index™ | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| La Grande | 61 | 99 61 | 94 55 | 87 50 | 82 47 |
| Comfort Index™ | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Enterprise | 60 | 97 60 | 92 54 | 85 49 | 80 47 |
| Comfort Index™ | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 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 | 96° | 96° | 97° |
| Low Sunday | 50° | 52° | 52° |
| PRECIPITATION (inches) | | | |
| Sunday | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Month to date | 0.00 | Trace | Trace |
| Normal month to date | 0.61 | 0.64 | 0.67 |
| Year to date | 4.75 | 10.30 | 20.78 |
| Normal year to date | 6.32 | 9.98 | 14.34 |

SUNDAY EXTREMES

| NATION | (for the 48 contiguous states) |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| High: 112° | Needles, Calif. |
| Low: 34° | Leadville, Colo. |
| Wettest: 4.00" | Winter Haven, Fla. |
| OREGON | |
| High: 107° | Hermiston |
| Low: 40° | Sunriver |
| Wettest: Trace | Brookings |

WEATHER HISTORY

Duluth, Minn., recorded an all-time high temperature of 106 degrees on July 31, 1936. This is hotter than has ever been recorded at Miami Beach, Fla., where being near the ocean prevents extreme heat.

SUN & MOON

| | MON. | TUE. |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Sunrise | 5:34 a.m. | 5:35 a.m. |
| Sunset | 8:23 p.m. | 8:21 p.m. |
| Moonrise | 10:04 p.m. | 10:30 p.m. |
| Moonset | 8:15 a.m. | 9:16 a.m. |

MOON PHASES

| Last | New | First | Full |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Aug 4 | Aug 11 | Aug 18 | Aug 26 |

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

| HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Lowest relative humidity | 15% |
| Afternoon wind | N at 4 to 8 mph |
| Hours of sunshine | 6.1 |
| Evapotranspiration | 0.25 |

RESERVOIR STORAGE

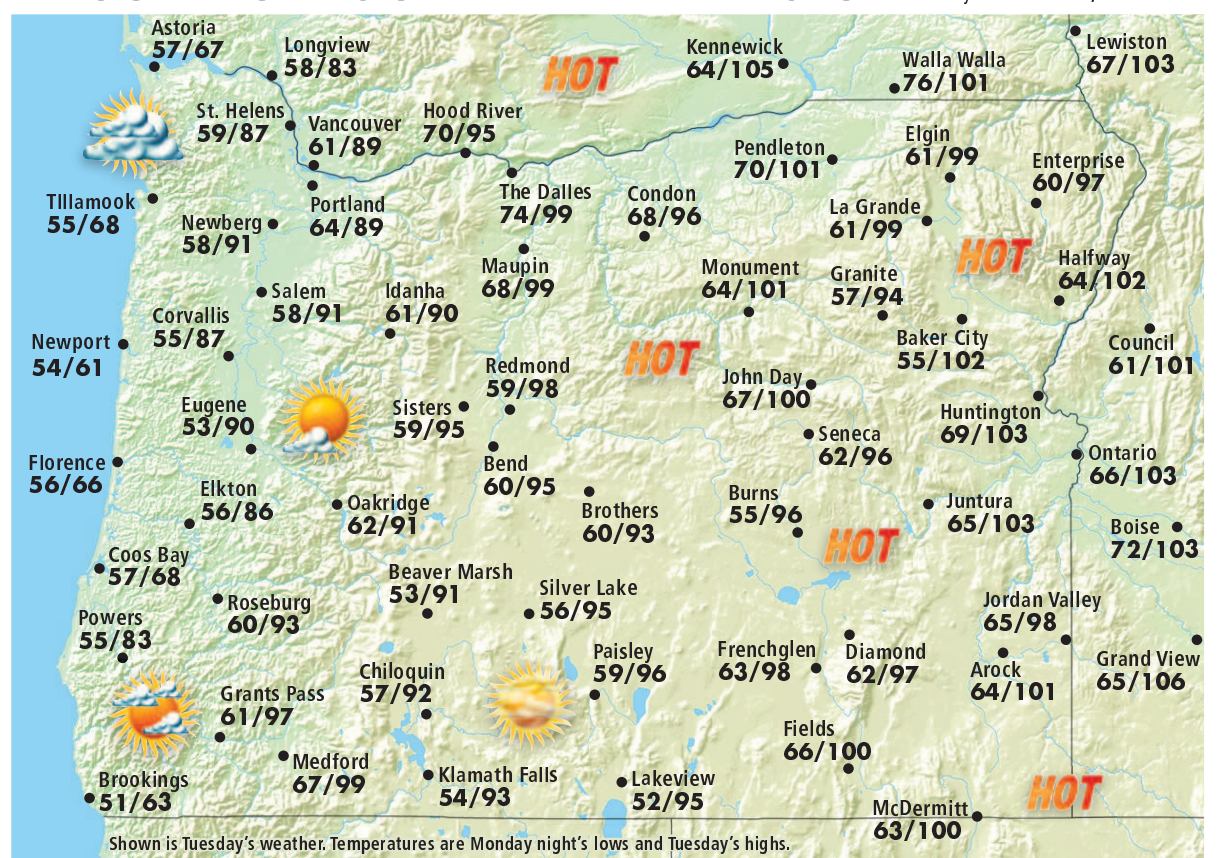
| Reservoir | Capacity |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Phillips Reservoir | 37% of capacity |
| Unity Reservoir | 50% of capacity |
| Owyhee Reservoir | 52% of capacity |
| McKay Reservoir | 57% of capacity |
| Wallowa Lake | 25% of capacity |
| Thief Valley Reservoir | 49% of capacity |

STREAM FLOWS

| Stream | Flow |
|--|---------|
| Grande Ronde at Troy | 354 cfs |
| Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder | 99 cfs |
| Burnt River near Unity | 130 cfs |
| Umatilla River near Gibbon | 37 cfs |
| Minam River at Minam | 112 cfs |
| Powder River near Richland | 25 cfs |

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

| City | TUE. HI/Lo/W | WED. HI/Lo/W | City | TUE. HI/Lo/W | WED. HI/Lo/W |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Astoria | 67/56/c | 65/57/pc | Lewiston | 103/70/pc | 100/64/s |
| Bend | 95/55/s | 91/50/s | Longview | 83/55/s | 78/55/pc |
| Boise | 103/73/pc | 101/66/s | Meacham | 97/58/pc | 92/53/s |
| Brookings | 63/50/pc | 61/51/pc | Medford | 99/64/pc | 96/59/pc |
| Burns | 96/55/pc | 95/48/s | Newport | 61/53/pc | 60/53/pc |
| Coos Bay | 68/56/pc | 65/58/pc | Olympia | 82/51/s | 77/53/pc |
| Corvallis | 87/52/s | 83/53/s | Ontario | 103/73/pc | 102/66/s |
| Council | 101/63/pc | 98/61/s | Pasco | 103/64/s | 100/60/s |
| Elgin | 99/60/pc | 94/56/s | Pendleton | 101/68/pc | 97/64/s |
| Eugene | 90/50/s | 86/51/s | Portland | 89/60/s | 87/60/s |
| Hermiston | 105/70/s | 100/64/s | Powers | 83/54/s | 77/53/pc |
| Hood River | 95/67/s | 91/62/s | Redmond | 98/53/s | 93/48/s |
| Imnaha | 104/67/pc | 98/63/s | Roseburg | 93/58/s | 88/57/s |
| John Day | 100/66/pc | 95/58/s | Salem | 91/55/s | 88/55/s |
| Joseph | 97/60/pc | 93/54/s | Spokane | 99/67/pc | 94/63/s |
| Kennewick | 105/69/s | 101/62/s | The Dalles | 99/69/s | 94/63/s |
| Klamath Falls | 93/51/pc | 90/48/pc | Ukiah | 96/55/pc | 91/51/s |
| Lakeview | 95/51/pc | 91/45/pc | Walla Walla | 101/75/pc | 97/69/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 TUESDAY

| Location | Forecast | Temp |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------|
| ANTHONY LAKES | Mostly sunny; nice | 71 49 |
| MT. EMILY REC. | Mostly sunny | 86 60 |
| EAGLE CAP WILD. | Mostly sunny; warm | 81 49 |
| WALLOWA LAKE | Sunshine; very hot | 96 60 |
| THIEF VALLEY RES. | Very hot | 100 55 |
| PHILLIPS LAKE | Partly sunny; hot | 94 55 |
| BROWNLEE RES. | Mostly sunny; hot | 100 65 |
| EMIGRANT ST. PARK | Mostly sunny; hot | 95 51 |
| MCKAY RESERVOIR | Mostly sunny; hot | 104 68 |
| RED BRIDGE ST. PARK | Very hot | 99 61 |



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