

Man confesses to long-ago affair with best friend's wife

DEAR ABBY: I found out a month ago that my wife and my best friend had a relationship 40 years ago when we were in our 20s. My friend hinted about it, so I asked him point blank and he confessed.

Obviously, if you can't trust someone, he's not your friend. My question is, should I ask my wife to tell me what went on or just sweep it under the rug and move forward?

Not a day goes by that I don't wonder what happened to make her stray, or how long the affair went on under my nose. I tried talking to her about it right after I found out, but she started crying, which is one of my weaknesses. I don't like making folks upset, so I took the blame because I wasn't a very good husband. We married very young, and I wasn't ready. So, what do I do?



DEAR ABBY

My gentleman friend and I are senior citizens who live together. We have acquired a dog and cat. I pay for the cat's food, vaccinations and litter. He pays for the dog's food and vaccinations.

Last week my boyfriend accidentally slammed the door on the cat's tail. Part of it had to be amputated, and the bill for surgery, drugs, cone, etc. came close to \$400. Neither of us is hurting financially. Who do you think should foot this bill?

— MOTHER OF FUR BABIES

DEAR MOTHER: That poor kitty! I not only think your "gentleman" friend should foot the bill, I think he should have VOLUNTEERED to do it. If he didn't, shame on him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Karl" for nearly two years. We are discussing marriage. The problem is I can't stand his family. They are rude, unkempt, lazy and opinionated. Karl's family blames me for helping him to overcome his poor social skills and unhealthy lifestyle. Karl has lost a lot of weight since we started dating. He now wears clean clothes and has had his teeth fixed.

I have always wanted a lavish outdoor wedding and reception, but I don't want to invite Karl's family. I am afraid they will ruin it. I think it might be better to have a small civil ceremony. Karl disagrees, and it's causing a rift in our relationship. Please help.

— BEWILDERED IN OHIO

DEAR BEWILDERED: Before your wedding plans go further, you and Karl have some important issues to iron out. For better or worse, those rude, unkempt, lazy, opinionated people are his family. Do you expect him to divorce them in order to marry you? If the answer is yes, tell him now. If the answer no, accept that Karl comes with some heavy baggage that will be difficult to handle, unless a way is found for you to accept his family the way they are. Remember, too, that his parents will be YOUR children's grandparents. So look again before you leap.

— COVERING MY EARS

DEAR COVERING: What the woman is doing can be considered sexual harassment, and in most sizable businesses — yours appears to be

New California law helps utilities with wildfire lawsuits

By Jonathan J. Cooper
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown signed a measure Friday allowing utilities to bill their customers to pay for future legal settlements stemming from devastating 2017 wildfires, even if the blazes are blamed on the company's mismanagement.

The bill is aimed at preventing bankruptcy or other serious financial trouble for Pacific Gas & Electric Co. The nation's largest utility by revenue faces billions of dollars in liability if investigators determine its equipment caused the Tubbs Fire that destroyed thousands of homes and killed 22 people in Santa Rosa last year.

"Wildfires in California aren't going away, and we have to do everything possible to prevent them," Brown said in a statement. "This bill is complex and requires investment - but it's absolutely necessary."

Critics call it a bailout for PG&E investors. The bill creates a special process for the 2017 fires, which caused more than \$10 billion in insured losses, by far the most in state history. It seeks to determine how much liability the utility can absorb without triggering severe consequences like bankruptcy, and allows any additional costs to be billed to consumers.

For fires sparked in the future, the bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to consider a variety of factors — including weather conditions, a utility's efforts to prevent fires and findings of mismanagement — to decide whether electric companies can pass costs to consumers.

The utility protections are part of more than two dozen bills Brown signed to reduce the risk of wildfires, including efforts to make it easier to conduct controlled burns that aim to clear out dry vegetation that would fuel wildfires.

PG&E is facing dozens of lawsuits from insurers, which have spent billions settling insurance claims from homeowners.

Courts have ruled that utilities are entirely liable for damage caused by their equipment, even the utility followed all safety precautions. Regulators have required utility investors to shoulder the legal burden for fires caused by mismanagement of electrical equipment.

Brown proposed eliminating that standard, known as inverse condemnation, but lawmakers dropped the idea amid pressure from insurers, trial lawyers and fire victims.

Despite the legislation, Moody's Investors Ser-

vice downgraded the credit ratings for California's three big investor-owned utilities. PG&E and its parent company were just above junk bond status.

Moody's analyst Jeff Cassella said the legislation represented "extraordinary legislative intervention" but failed to rollback inverse combination.

If PG&E is blamed for the most destructive fires and passes along costs to customers, they'll appear as a surcharge on monthly utility bills for the next 20 years.

The cost is unknown because it's not clear which fires will ultimately be linked to PG&E, what its final settlement will look like or how much of the burden will be placed on investors. Sen. Bill Dodd, a key negotiator, said the average residential ratepayer would pay an estimated \$5.20 extra for every \$1 billion dollars that PG&E must finance.

In the second quarter of this year, PG&E spent more on lobbying in California than any other entity, records show. It dropped more than \$1.7 million, nearly three times as much as it spent the previous quarter, most of it on wildfire issues. Up from the Ashes, a group representing trial lawyers and people who lost homes in the fire, spent more than half a million dollars.

The measure is the most hotly contested part of a wide-ranging plan to reduce the threat of wildfires, which have been larger and more destructive in recent years.

The bill also requires investor-owned utilities — including PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — to harden their equipment so it's less likely to cause fires. It would make it easier, in some circumstances, to do prescribed burns, clear dead trees and brush, log trees and build fire breaks. It includes \$1 billion over the next five years for those purposes.

Among the other bills Brown signed is a measure aiming to triple the amount of land in California treated with prescribed burns and to limit liability for private landowners conducting controlled burns on their property. The bill helps clarify that landowners who get a permit to conduct a prescribed burn and comply with its terms have done their due diligence.

"These private landowners were afraid to get permits because they were afraid of getting sued if something happened," Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, a Santa Barbara Democrat who wrote the bill, told media during a conference call earlier this year.

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weather

	TONIGHT	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	A moonlit sky and chilly	Sunny and pleasant	Nice with clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Partly sunny and nice
Baker City	30	73 29	78 34	82 37	80 40
Comfort Index™	9	10	8	8	10
La Grande	33	72 33	78 36	80 39	78 39
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	8	8
Enterprise	33	70 36	76 41	78 42	76 41
Comfort Index™	10	10	10	8	10

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	65°	64°	64°
Low Sunday	35°	37°	38°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Sunday	Trace	0.00	0.09
Month to date	Trace	0.04	0.16
Normal month to date	0.44	0.50	0.61
Year to date	4.75	10.52	21.11
Normal year to date	7.51	11.37	15.64

SUNDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 111° Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 23° Fraser, Colo.
Wettest: 3.58" Searcy, Ark.
OREGON
High: 76° Brookings
Low: 26° Crater Lake
Wettest: Trace Astoria

WEATHER HISTORY

On Sept. 25, 1994, violent thunderstorms in western Pennsylvania produced damaging hail. Golf ball-sized hail accumulated 8 inches at Arthurdale, Pa.

SUN & MOON

	MON.	TUE.
Sunrise	6:42 a.m.	6:43 a.m.
Sunset	6:46 p.m.	6:44 p.m.
Moonrise	7:03 p.m.	7:29 p.m.
Moonset	6:02 a.m.	7:06 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 24	Oct 2	Oct 8	Oct 16

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION TUESDAY

Lowest relative humidity	20%
Afternoon wind	NE at 4 to 8 mph
Hours of sunshine	10.6
Evapotranspiration	0.13

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Sunday)

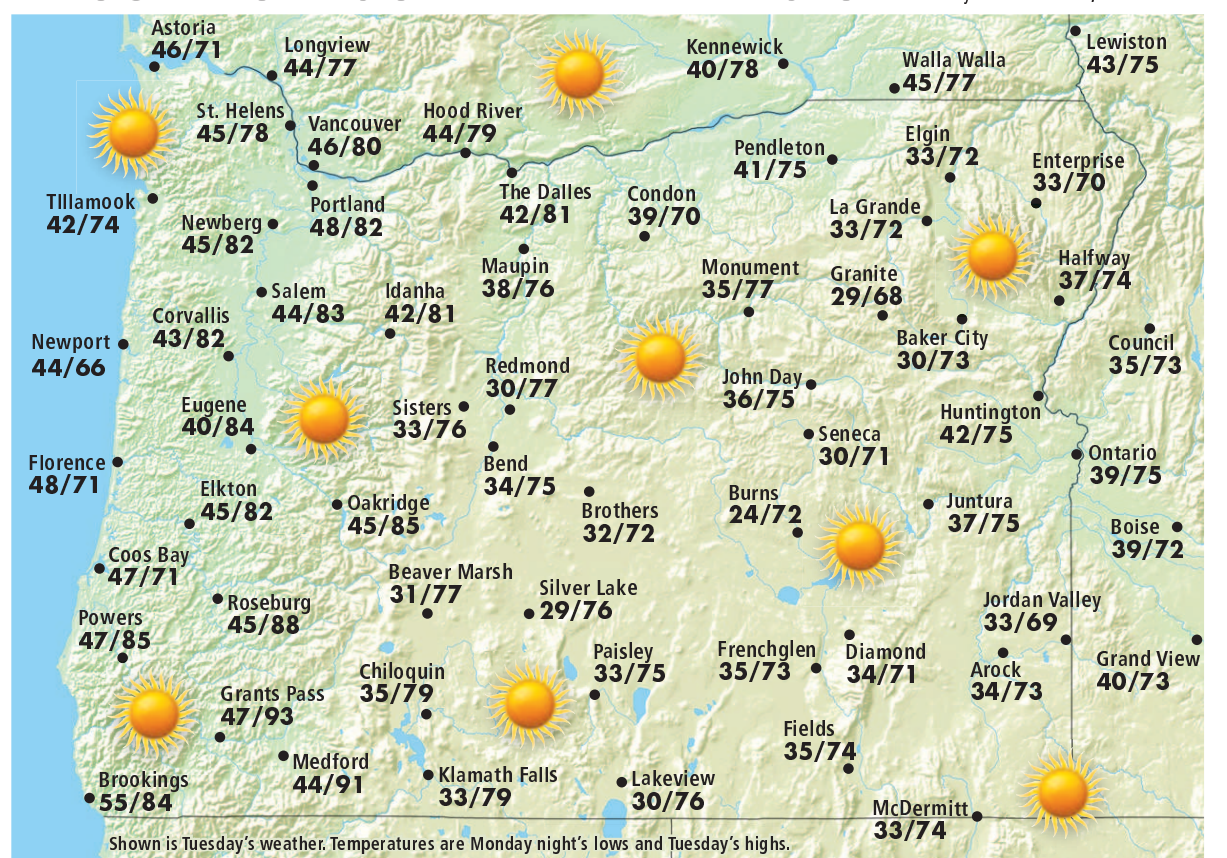
Phillips Reservoir	9% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	9% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	32% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	31% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	4% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	0% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Sunday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	553 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	43 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	48 cfs
Minam River at Minam	50 cfs
Powder River near Richland	9 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	71/47/s	70/50/s	Lewiston	75/42/s	78/48/pc
Bend	75/38/s	84/44/s	Longview	77/46/s	77/48/pc
Boise	72/43/s	77/49/pc	Meacham	70/32/s	76/35/pc
Brookings	84/52/s	76/52/s	Medford	91/49/s	95/53/s
Burns	72/29/s	80/31/pc	Newport	66/46/s	66/48/s
Coos Bay	71/48/s	73/50/s	Olympia	72/44/s	73/45/pc
Corvallis	82/45/s	85/48/s	Ontario	75/37/s	79/43/pc
Council	73/36/s	75/42/pc	Pasco	78/41/s	81/44/pc
Elgin	72/35/s	77/42/pc	Pendleton	75/43/s	80/47/pc
Eugene	84/43/s	87/48/s	Portland	82/50/s	82/53/pc
Hermiston	79/39/s	81/43/pc	Powers	85/54/s	88/53/s
Hood River	79/49/s	84/51/pc	Redmond	77/36/s	85/40/s
Imnaha	73/41/s	79/48/pc	Roseburg	88/48/s	92/52/s
John Day	75/41/s	82/46/pc	Salem	83/47/s	85/50/s
Joseph	69/35/s	75/40/pc	Spokane	69/42/s	73/47/pc
Kennewick	78/41/s	80/44/pc	The Dalles	81/43/s	85/50/pc
Klamath Falls	79/34/s	85/38/s	Ukiah	71/33/s	77/37/pc
Lakeview	76/31/s	83/36/s	Walla Walla	77/47/s	78/51/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 Sunny, but chilly	42 24		PHILLIPS LAKE Plenty of sunshine	64 29	
MT. EMILY REC. Plenty of sun	54 32		BROWNLEE RES. Sunny and nice	71 40	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Plenty of sun	51 24		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Plenty of sunshine	59 27	
WALLOWA LAKE Sunny	64 33		MCKAY RESERVOIR Sunny and nice	68 41	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Sunny and nice	68 30		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Plenty of sunshine	66 33	



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