

Former nanny tires of keeping lesbian marriage under wraps

DEAR ABBY: I am an out-and-proud lesbian who recently celebrated 10 years as a couple and three years of marriage to my wife. I worked as a professional nanny for many years, and I'm still extremely close to the first family I worked for. Although we have known each other for years, they still ask me not to mention my marriage when I'm around their kids. They refer to my wife as my "roommate." It's all I can do to bite my tongue. I have ignored this for too long.

I recently invited them over to see my new home. Because



DEAR ABBY

of their conservative views, I warned them in advance about the wedding photos I have displayed. I'm not ashamed of my life. I am extremely proud of myself and my wife. I am hurt and offended by their requests. I feel they only accept certain parts of me.

I realize it's unhealthy to continue this way, but I'm terrified of losing them. I'm usually a straightforward person. I feel open communication is important with everyone else in my life. But I have lost relationships before because, no matter how respectful I tried to be, hon-

esty can sometimes be hard to hear. How can I be honest without angering this couple, and what's the best way to start this conversation?

— **OUTSPOKEN NANNY**

DEAR NANNY: If your former employers think they can censor their children's world to omit the fact that perfectly nice people, including one they love, are gay, they're dreaming. Kids today are very worldly.

When the parents started calling your wife your roommate, you should have corrected them then and TOLD them it was offensive and hurtful.

Invite them to your home and leave your wedding photos dis-

played. Why you are terrified that your relationship with them will end because you're living your authentic life mystifies me. If they can't handle the truth, you and your wife are better off without them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's brother has two kids, both of whom are now adults. The older one is in their second year of college; the younger one will graduate from high school this spring.

We haven't missed a single birthday for either one. The only time we see them is when there's a birthday or it's Christmas (with a few exceptions, like the occasional funeral).

I think it's time to stop the annual birthday gifts. We're not particularly close, and I'm tired of the forced merriment when it's clear they are only after the gift. How do I tell the parents and the grandparents there will be no more gifts for birthdays without sounding like a stingy old aunt?

— **GIFTED OUT IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR GIFTED OUT: Unless you want to make a change immediately, hang in there until the younger child reaches 21.

At that point, put the parents/grandparents on notice that because "the kids" are now adults, you will be sending cards rather than gifts.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

EMAILS: FBI WAS LOOKING FOR GOLD AT PENNSYLVANIA DIG SITE

DENTS RUN, Penn. — Go for the gold? The U.S. government went for it.

FBI agents were looking for cache of fabled Civil War-era gold — possibly tons of it — when they excavated a remote woodland site in Pennsylvania three years ago this month, according to government emails and other recently released documents in the case.

On March 13, 2018, treasure hunters led the FBI to Dents Run, about 135 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, where legend has it an 1863 shipment of Union gold was either lost or stolen on its way to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

The FBI has long refused to confirm why exactly it went digging, saying only in written statements over the years that agents were there for a court-authorized excavation of "what evidence suggested may have been a cultural heritage site."

In any event, the FBI says, the dig came up empty.

But the father-son duo who brought a small army of federal agents to the site remain convinced the FBI uncovered something there — and their lawyer, Bill Cluck, is pressing the case, successfully suing for access to government emails about the dig.

Those documents, which Cluck provided to The Associated Press, show federal law enforcement was indeed after buried treasure.

"We believe the cache itself is in the neighborhood of 3x5x8 (feet) to 5x5x8," wrote K.T. Newton, an assistant U.S. attorney in Philadelphia, in a 2018 email marked "Confidential."

Since the Elk County site was on state-owned land, the FBI had to secure a federal court order to gain access. The legal maneuvering generated emails between Newton and Audrey Miner, chief



In this Sept. 20, 2018, photo, Dennis Parada, right, and his son Kem Parada stand at the site of the FBI's dig for Civil War-era gold in Dents Run, Pennsylvania. Government emails released under court order show FBI agents were looking for gold when they excavated Dents Run in 2018, though the FBI says they found nothing.

lawyer for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

On March 13, as FBI agents clambered up a hill to the target, Miner bluntly asked Newton: "Can you please provide the basis upon which the Office of the United States Attorney asserts that the gold, if found, belongs to the federal government?"

Newton replied that a federal affidavit in the case was sealed. She instead offered to "discuss this generally with you on the phone," according to email records released by the state under court order.

The federal government followed a well-worn path to the woods of northwestern Pennsylvania, where legendary tales of buried Civil War gold had

inspired generations of treasure hunters — including Dennis and Kem Parada.

The Paradas, who co-own the treasure-hunting outfit Finders Keepers, spent years looking for the long-lost booty before going to the FBI with their evidence in January 2018, saying their sophisticated detector had registered a hunk of metal they suspected was the gold of lore.

Within weeks, the FBI hired geophysical consulting firm Envirosca to survey the hilltop site. Envirosca's gravimeter indicated a large metallic mass with the density of gold, according to Warren Getler, who worked closely with the Paradas and the FBI.

An FBI agent told them the location of the mass was "one or

two feet off Denny's sweet spot," recalled Getler, author of "Rebel Gold," a book exploring the possibility of buried Civil War-era caches of gold and silver. "Then I went to ask how big it is. And he said, '7 to 9 tons.' And I literally said, 'You've got to be kidding!'"

That much gold would be worth hundreds of millions of dollars today — and, assuming it was there, would almost certainly touch off a legal fight over how to divvy up the spoils.

The Paradas and Getler previously said they had an agreement with the FBI to watch the excavation. Officers instead confined them to their car for most of the dig, then, at the end of the second and final day, escorted them to the site — by

that time a large, empty hole.

The FBI has long been adamant that whatever the agents were looking for, they didn't find it. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia said last week it considers the matter to be closed.

Three years later, the story is not likely to go away. The Paradas and Getler are planned a news conference Wednesday, March 10, to keep the spotlight on their claims. Residents have told of hearing a backhoe and jackhammer overnight — when the excavation was supposed to have been paused — and seeing a convoy of FBI vehicles, including large armored trucks.

"I gotta find out what happened to all that gold," Dennis Parada said in a phone interview last week.

The FBI assertion of an empty hole is "insulting all the credible people who did this kind of work," he said. "It was a slap in the face, really, to think all these people could make that kind of mistake."

Cluck, meanwhile, is pursuing government material on the case — nearly 2,400 pages, as well as video files, the FBI has promised to turn over in response to his Freedom of Information Act request.

All documents in the federal court case about the dig remain sealed. A state appeals judge recently declined to order the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to give Cluck the federal writ of entry and seizure warrant the FBI agents relied on to gain access to the site.

In rejecting Cluck's petition, though, state Commonwealth Court Judge Kevin Brobson left a tantalizing clue. In a footnote of his Jan. 28 opinion, Brobson revealed, for the first time, the name of the sealed federal case: "In the Matter of: Seizure of One or More Tons of United States Gold."

— *Associated Press*

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Mainly clear and cold	Plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	A shower in the afternoon
Baker City	23	52 25	57 30	57 31	52 30
La Grande	22	53 25	57 27	56 32	48 31
Enterprise	20	47 25	52 29	56 33	49 32

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 48° La Grande 46° Elgin 50°
 High Tuesday 48° 46° 50°
 Low Tuesday 20° 25° 25°

PRECIPITATION (inches)
 Tuesday 0.00 0.00 0.04
 Month to date 0.13 0.02 0.07
 Normal month to date 0.22 0.41 0.69
 Year to date 1.08 5.05 12.00
 Normal year to date 1.60 3.18 6.19

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY
 Lowest relative humidity 30%
 Afternoon wind N at 6 to 12 mph
 Hours of sunshine 8.9
 Evapotranspiration 0.09

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Wednesday)
 Phillips Reservoir 11% of capacity
 Unity Reservoir 53% of capacity
 Owyhee Reservoir 52% of capacity
 McKay Reservoir 63% of capacity
 Wallawa Lake 44% of capacity
 Thief Valley Reservoir 101% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Tuesday)
 Grande Ronde at Troy 3040 cfs
 Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder 133 cfs
 Burnt River near Unity 36 cfs
 Umatilla River near Gibbon 355 cfs
 Minam River at Minam 203 cfs
 Powder River near Richland 283 cfs

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
 High: 86° Kingsville, Texas
 Low: -2° Presque Isle, Maine
 Wettest: 0.89" Mount Shasta, Calif.

OREGON
 High: 56° Hermiston
 Low: 18° Lakeview
 Wettest: 0.42" Sexton Summit

WEATHER HISTORY

As of March 11, 1911, Tamarack, Calif., had the greatest snow depth ever observed in the United States -- 471 inches.

SUN & MOON

	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	6:12 a.m.	6:10 a.m.
Sunset	5:53 p.m.	5:54 p.m.
Moonrise	5:57 a.m.	6:22 a.m.
Moonset	4:08 p.m.	5:16 p.m.

MOON PHASES

New First Full Last
 Mar 13 Mar 21 Mar 28 Apr 4

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Thursday night's lows and Friday's highs.

REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY	
City	FRI. SAT.	City	FRI. SAT.
Astoria	52/34/s 55/42/pc	Lewiston	54/34/s 58/36/pc
Bend	55/30/s 61/32/pc	Longview	59/29/s 60/40/pc
Boise	53/29/s 57/34/c	Meacham	51/26/s 56/26/s
Brookings	55/39/s 50/42/c	Medford	63/33/s 66/40/pc
Burns	52/21/s 58/24/s	Newport	51/35/s 52/42/c
Coos Bay	54/34/s 54/41/c	Olympia	56/28/s 59/38/pc
Corvallis	58/31/s 61/37/c	Ontario	56/28/s 60/32/s
Council Bluffs	49/19/s 51/22/s	Pasco	60/28/s 62/32/pc
Elgin	53/28/s 57/31/s	Pendleton	58/32/s 62/35/pc
Eugene	58/32/s 62/39/c	Portland	59/34/s 61/41/pc
Hermiston	62/29/s 64/32/pc	Powers	61/34/s 61/42/pc
Hood River	60/28/s 60/35/pc	Redmond	56/25/s 62/33/pc
Imnaha	51/24/s 56/30/s	Roseburg	61/33/s 64/40/c
John Day	51/25/s 57/29/s	Salem	57/30/pc 59/40/pc
Joseph	46/25/s 50/32/c	Spokane	52/28/s 55/31/pc
Kennewick	62/27/s 63/33/pc	The Dalles	61/31/s 62/35/pc
Klamath Falls	54/20/s 58/29/pc	Ukiah	52/25/s 56/28/pc
Lakeview	49/19/s 54/25/s	Walla Walla	56/33/s 58/37/pc

City	FRI.	SAT.
Anthony Lakes	Plenty of sun	Plenty of sun
Phillips Lake	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine
MT. EMILY REC.	Plenty of sun	Plenty of sun
Eagle Cap Wild.	Plenty of sun	Plenty of sun
Wallowa Lake	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine
Thief Valley Res.	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine