

Man's estrangement from son compounded by incarceration



DEAR ABBY ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My 38-year-old son is in jail for meth. He's been an addict for many years. I tried several times to help him, but he always relapsed. He has been in rehab. His mother and I divorced when he was 7. He was a great kid until the divorce. After that, he became distant and wouldn't talk much to me.

His mother tried to make up for the divorce by doing everything for him. When I wanted him to do something, like his

homework, he would just sit and stare. I couldn't punish him because I was afraid he wouldn't want to come to my place when it was my weekend to have him. I did things with him and tried to show him I loved him, but I think he blamed me for the divorce. (It was my wife who wanted it.)

I don't think he ever loved me like a son normally loves his father, the way I loved and respected mine. He rejected any advice I tried to offer and paid no attention when I tried to teach him something.

I'm trying to decide if I want to contact him. I feel like I have always had to do the heavy lifting to try to have a relationship with him, and he made no

effort at all to sustain one with me. If I never heard from him again, I really wouldn't miss him. All he has ever been is a taker. So I'm asking: Should I bother trying to get in contact with him while he is in jail? — FRUSTRATED FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Your son is sick — an addict. That he is in jail will hopefully mean he can attain sobriety. Reach out to him one more time. He may believe you deserted him and his mother because she allowed him to believe it, which would explain his attitude toward you all these years. It might be of some benefit to him to be reminded that you love him and care about his well-being. Once he is clean, he may

have a different attitude where you are concerned. If not, at least you tried.

DEAR ABBY: I have ended a four-year romantic relationship. When times were good, they were very good. I had some of the most joyful and wonderful experiences of my life with him, my children and his family. We were planning to spend the rest of our lives together.

However, when the going got rough, he started seeing other women and, later, was hateful to one of my tween children. Even as I write that last part, I am appalled. I know in my head the relationship had to end, yet I continue to cry over the loss every day, and my sleep remains disrupted.

What's the matter with me that I'm pining over a man who turned so sour? I should feel relieved, right? How can I help myself move through this? — TOO MANY TEARS

DEAR TEARS: I sympathize with your disappointment. We have all been there. Now wipe your nose, dry those tears and remind yourself that, had the romance continued, you might have married someone who would verbally abuse your children and cheat on you. You aren't crying over the loss of "him" as much as grieving the loss of a dream that didn't come to fruition. Stay busy and focus harder on looking ahead, and you will move through this more quickly.

State and counties battle over more than timber

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — The yearslong legal battle between the state of Oregon and 14 counties over revenues generated by state forests is about more than money, even if it's \$1 billion.

That's the amount a jury in Linn County awarded the counties and taxing districts in 2019. The jury held the state liable for breaching contracts with the counties by logging an insufficient amount of timber from state forests, reducing their share of profits. It awarded the plaintiffs. As the state government seeks to overturn the jury's verdict on appeal, it has exposed a broader rift between itself and the predominantly rural communities.

"This is a lot bigger issue than a \$1 billion judgment. It's about rural jobs and economics — and a way of life," said Roger Nyquist, a commissioner for Linn County, the lawsuit's lead plaintiff.

The dispute goes beyond the stereotypical conflict between the survival of rural sawmills and the survival of protected species.

It's a legal conundrum that's also about power: The counties want to stick up for themselves, while the state wants to protect its prerogative to set forest policy.

"We've been residing on

opposite planets," said John DiLorenzo, attorney for the counties.

The disagreement centers on timber revenues from 700,000 acres of state forestlands, most of which were donated to the state by county governments in the 1930s and 1940s.

Counties and other taxing bodies are entitled to a share of logging revenues, and historically these monies have been a big part of their budgets.

The state is required to manage the forestlands for their "greatest permanent value." The state's interpretation of that concept has evolved since the land first changed hands.

In recent decades, the state has reduced timber harvests to protect wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities.

The plaintiffs and the state disagree on what was promised when the counties gave up the land.

The state says the lawsuit shouldn't have even gone to a jury because the counties lack an enforceable contract governing the land's management.

The county governments argue they never would've given up such massive swaths of forestland if the state could simply reduce logging levels and timber revenues at will.

"Who in their right mind would have done that?" asked DiLorenzo.



Joshua Bessex/EO Media Group, File

Logging in the Clatsop State Forest in 2016. A dispute between the state and some counties goes beyond the stereotypical conflict between the survival of rural sawmills and the survival of protected species.

'An absurd notion'

On Feb. 22, the Oregon Court of Appeals will hear arguments to decide which of their perspectives is legally correct.

A key question in the litigation is whether the counties have the ability to challenge the state's forestry decisions. Counties are subdivisions of state government.

While the state's attorneys argue the counties lack this power, the counties say they have a right to enforce their contract with the state.

"What's the point of a contract if the state doesn't have to live up to it?" Nyquist asked.

It's an "absurd notion" that the counties can't challenge the state in court over the matter, said Rob Bovett, legal counsel for the Association of Oregon Counties.

"If the state can walk away from its contracts, then we've got nothing," he said. "Then we would have a partnership that's not only broken, but not a partnership at all. It would be

master and servant."

More than two decades ago, the Oregon Board of Forestry enacted a definition of "greatest permanent value" that emphasized "healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems" that generate "social, economic and environmental benefits."

The counties contend that state foresters have curtailed logging as a result, depriving local governments of roughly \$1 billion in past and future revenues needed for law enforcement, schools, libraries and other services.

"You can call this a breach of contract, but it's a broken promise," Bovett said. "It is a direct promise from the state to the counties."

The donated forestlands are governed under a specific 1941 statute, and according to the state, the counties cannot enforce a "statutory contract" related to "matters of statewide public concern."

"At least when it comes

to matters affecting a statewide interest, a county cannot seek compensation for losses caused by the state's breach of a statutory contract," according to the state.

Under Oregon law, state forestlands must be managed for the "greatest permanent value of those lands to the state," which is a matter that's within the discretion of the board of forestry, the state said.

"The State of Oregon gets to decide the greatest permanent value for the State of Oregon," said Ralph Bloemers, an attorney for fishing and conservation groups that oppose the lawsuit. "There's nowhere that says: Timber first, then everything else. It's everything. It's multiple uses. It's what people enjoyed back in those days and today."

State law requires counties to share in timber revenues

The legal problem of Oregon's political subdivisions suing the state government can be explained in familial terms, he said.

"It's like a kid suing his parents for not getting enough allowance, when the parents have taken care of school, taken him to the dentist, made sure he's safe," Bloemers said. "It's easy to pick on the state and say the state isn't doing enough."

The plaintiffs say they realize that counties can't simply legally challenge any state policy they dislike, such as marijuana legalization. However, they argue local governments

can't perform public health functions and carry out other tasks on the state's behalf if they can't rely on contracts.

Critics of the lawsuit point out that Oregon cannot ignore federal laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, which restrict logging under certain circumstances.

There's no argument that state law requires counties to share in timber revenues, but it's still allowed to take environmental and recreation considerations into account, said Bob Van Dyk, Oregon and California policy director for the non-profit Wild Salmon Center.

Tillamook County, one of the plaintiffs, is dedicated to environmental preservation but doesn't believe it conflicts with other values, said David Yamamoto, vice-chair of the county commission.

"People think that if you manage for timber, you don't care about the environment," he said. "That's absolutely wrong."

The problem isn't that Oregon follows environmental laws. It's that state foresters have restricted logging beyond what's legally required, said DiLorenzo, attorney for the counties. That management strategy has now resulted in Endangered Species Act limitations that have further decreased logging. Van Dyk of the Wild Salmon Center said he's also glad that Oregon decided against settling the lawsuit and is optimistic about the state's chances on appeal.

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weather

	TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	Breezy early, clear	Clouds and sun; chilly	Mostly sunny	Morning snow showers	A little ice, then rain
Baker City	13	29 12	30 10	29 17	31 17
Comfort Index™	0	0	1	0	0
La Grande	26	34 21	37 18	33 25	37 26
Comfort Index™	0	0	1	0	0
Enterprise	18	39 19	40 19	38 22	33 29
Comfort Index™	3	3	4	1	0

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 Tuesday	25°	32°	31°
Low Tuesday	10°	21°	21°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	0.00
Month to date	0.38	1.24	3.73
Normal month to date	0.58	1.39	2.72
Year to date	0.38	1.24	3.73
Normal year to date	0.58	1.39	2.72

TUESDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	Key West, Fla.
High: 81°	Key West, Fla.
Low: -33°	Crane Lake, Minn.
Wettest: 0.97"	Burlington, Colo.
OREGON	
High: 65°	North Bend
Low: 6°	Meacham
Wettest: none	

WEATHER HISTORY

A five-day blizzard began Jan. 27, 1966, around Oswego, N.Y. Accumulation reached 102 inches with 50 inches falling on Jan. 31 alone.

SUN & MOON

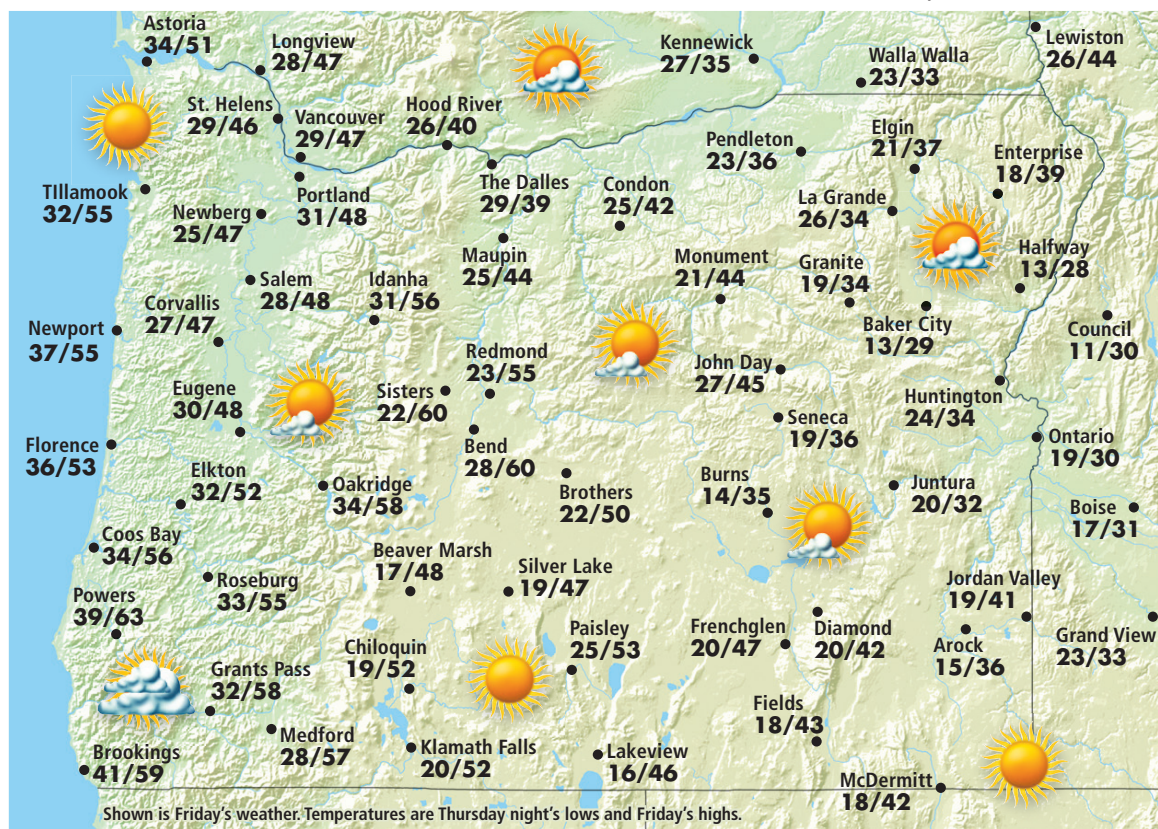
	THU.	FRI.
Sunrise	7:19 a.m.	7:18 a.m.
Sunset	4:52 p.m.	4:54 p.m.
Moonrise	2:57 a.m.	4:16 a.m.
Moonset	12:08 p.m.	12:52 p.m.

MOON PHASES

	New	First	Full	Last
	Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	51/35/c	50/42/c	Lewiston	44/27/pc	45/28/c
Bend	60/26/pc	55/21/c	Longview	47/30/c	47/32/c
Boise	31/14/pc	30/16/s	Meacham	35/13/pc	35/13/s
Brookings	59/43/c	57/43/c	Medford	57/29/c	56/30/c
Burns	35/12/pc	36/13/s	Newport	55/39/c	54/42/c
Coos Bay	56/34/c	55/39/c	Olympia	50/32/pc	49/36/c
Corvallis	47/30/c	48/33/c	Ontario	30/16/pc	30/16/s
Council	30/5/pc	30/9/s	Pasco	35/23/c	36/24/s
Elgin	37/9/pc	34/9/s	Pendleton	36/20/pc	36/23/s
Eugene	48/31/c	52/38/c	Portland	48/32/c	48/34/c
Hermiston	35/22/pc	36/22/s	Powers	63/38/c	62/39/s
Hood River	40/26/pc	40/30/c	Redmond	55/22/pc	57/21/c
Imnaha	46/27/pc	46/26/s	Roseburg	55/35/c	55/35/c
John Day	45/24/pc	46/26/s	Salem	48/30/c	50/35/c
Joseph	41/25/pc	41/24/s	Spokane	32/22/pc	36/22/c
Kennewick	35/22/c	32/21/s	The Dalles	39/30/c	40/32/c
Klamath Falls	52/18/c	53/20/s	Ukiah	43/21/pc	45/21/s
Lakeview	46/19/c	47/19/s	Walla Walla	33/22/pc	35/23/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 FRIDAY

Location	Forecast	High	Low
ANTHONY LAKES	Clouding up	33	21
PHILLIPS LAKE	Mostly cloudy	32	14
MT. EMILY REC.	Periods of sun	37	26
BROWNLEE RES.	Partly sunny	36	16
EAGLE CAP WILD.	Periods of sun	30	18
EMIGRANT ST. PARK	Partly sunny	37	16
WALLOWA LAKE	Partly sunny	41	25
MCKAY RESERVOIR	Partly sunny	42	25
THIEF VALLEY RES.	Cold	29	12
RED BRIDGE ST. PARK	Breezy and chilly	34	21