

Calls and messages threaten racy video leak

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, I started receiving mysterious phone calls from a man claiming to have in his possession videos of me performing sexual acts. I do not know where he would have gotten something like that. I changed my phone number, but somehow he got my new number and started harassing me again.

After a while, the phone calls stopped, and I haven't received one in years. Recently, I was sent a request on Facebook by a girl with no profile information who then sent me a message saying something about a video and accosting me with sexual language. I have since deleted all my



DEAR ABBY
Abigail Van Buren

social media accounts.

My question is: What if there is some video I have no knowledge of, and how do I handle it if someone decides to leak it? -- SCARED AND EMBARRASSED

DEAR SCARED AND EMBARRASSED: What has been happening to you amounts to harassment and blackmail. That is why you should notify

the police about what has been going on. I seriously doubt that there is a video. (The whole thing is probably a scam.)

If there is one and it is leaked, I recommend that you hold your head high and say to anyone who mentions it that yes, like most of the adult population in the world, you, too, have a sex life. At least then you will know who filmed it, and you can share that additional information with the authorities.

DEAR ABBY: I am 70. My sister is 68, and her husband is 80. He has kidney failure and needs 24/7 care. Our mother is 98. She lives independently in a con-

do and is mentally fully functional, but she can't cook or do house-keeping anymore. (She has cleaning help.)

My sister and I take turns making Mom warm meals, and my sister also does some light housekeeping. It takes one to two hours. My sister does this three times a week while her husband is at dialysis at a nearby facility. She also has my mother's medical and financial powers of attorney and prefers to be the one to take care of things.

I am in fairly good health but have some medical issues that may eventually make it difficult (or even impossible) to travel. This fall, I plan to go

to Europe for three weeks. I would like to have someone come in to help my mom three times a week while I am gone. I would introduce this person ahead of time so that Mom could get to know them and I could show them what needs to be done.

Unfortunately, Mom doesn't want anyone other than my sister and me to care for her. My sister's plate is already more than full, so I don't want to add to it. Is it unreasonable of me to expect my mother to accept outside help? -- PERPLEXED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your plan is not unreasonable, but it's common for

someone your mother's age to resist change. Remind her that the clock is ticking on your travel opportunities, and emphasize that the arrangement is only temporary. Tell her you will call to check in while you're away, and promise to bring back lots of photos and stories to share with her when you resume your normal caregiving routine.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ARMA

CONTINUED FROM 1A

entirety to the council this week, noting that this year's budget is "very healthy." Hart compared the 2026 general budget to the 2027, noting positive changes in its mill levy.

"With what you guys requested, in 2026, your mill levy was 20.488," she said. "Even with what you requested, it would go down to 19.592. So a slight decrease in your mill levy on the general fund."

Hart then requested an increase for the Arma City Library, noting that the facility went into the negative at the end of last year. The request would translate to adjustments to the city's initially presented budget, increasing the mill rate by one.

"I feel by doing that, it will allow them to end in a positive balance at the end of 2027," she said. "... They always spend \$42,000 and they did not bring in \$42,000 to cover what was spent."

"That put in jeopardy our state funding from the State Library of Kansas Library System and the Southeast Kansas Library System itself," added Arma City Library Director Shelley Corley. "... Whatever that mistake was can't happen ... In working

through everything, we work with a very slim budget ... We have not had any kind of increase in budget. It's been that way since 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, \$42,000 ... We need to request your consideration of another mill to be able to keep up with all the costs. It's been very difficult."

Councilwoman Carma Burns echoed the importance of the library, stating that it "is a very vital part to our citizens."

The Council then carried on with city business while Hart prepared the documents necessary to reflect the increase for the library. Just before jumping into communications and purchase requests, Hart presented the updated information to the council.

"What I did was take up their appropriations to (\$48,000) from (\$42,000) so what that will do is take their mill levy up to 3.214," said Hart. "Your overall mill levy would go up to 25.985."

Prior to the proposed change with the library, the overall mill levy was 25.224, a slight decrease from the final amount approved. However, Hart noted that the amounts are "positive towards the taxpayers."

Councilman Bob Lauck made the motion

to accept the budget as presented and it was approved by the council 4-0 (Councilman Gary Pommer could not attend Monday's meeting).

A budget hearing and revenue neutral rate hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Arma City Hall, located at 701 E. Washington.

Following the budget discussion, but staying on the topic of the Arma City Library, Corley gave a report on the library's busy schedule. The library saw a large increase in computer usage from June to July, logging 173 hours between both adults and children. The library also checked out 106 books and sent out 43 in July, saving patrons around \$1,731 as opposed to purchasing books online.

The food pantry at the Library and its community garden/donations helped 42 individuals and 16 families. So far through August, the pantry has assisted 23 people and 12 families. Ongoing pantry needs are canned tuna, egg noodles, grape jelly, pancake mix, syrup, and oatmeal.

In other business, Arma Police Chief John Austin presented a police report for this year's Arma VJ Homecoming, which took place from Aug. 6 to Aug. 9. The officers put in "long hours and endured the heat," listing 13 calls for service, 41 citizen contacts, 30 traffic stops, three vehicle checks, 14 traffic notices to appear, 16 traffic warnings, one driving under the influence, three offense reports, one arrest, one ordinance violation, one ordinance notice to appear, and one vehicle unlock.

Along with the Arma Police Department's efforts, officers with the Kansas Alcohol Beverage Control conducted underage compliance enforcement during homecoming. The report listed three Intelli-

check age ID scans and visited three licensees who were found compliant.

Later in the meeting, during council comments, several councilmembers complimented the efforts of all those involved with this year's homecoming celebration, which returned for its 80th year.

"I want to thank all the sponsors, I appreciate that," said councilman Howard Camp. "... I want to thank Jake Jones. He provided the trash service for the city."

"He provided a dumpster, and he also volunteered his labor to the homecoming committee to pick up all the trash for no charge," added city superintendent Austin Spragg. "We did pay for the dumpster though. Fuel and everything, driving around picking up trash cans, emptying them out and making sure everything looked good."

"It was a very successful homecoming and had a large parade," said councilman Bob Lauck. "It included the mounted color guard from Fort Riley ... Those young men are stellar ... I talked to people from other communities that were here. One couple from Joplin said they really appreciate this community and honoring the veterans. I didn't hear anything negative other than Austin (Spragg) had to clean up some horse poop."

The next council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Meetings are held at the council meeting room next door to Arma City Hall, located at 701 E. Washington St. For more information or to be placed on the agenda, call the Arma City Hall at 620-347-4125.

LAUNDRY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Equity Action Team (LHEAT) paid for 668 loads of laundry, which equaled roughly \$1,700 in quarters. Gambill said in the past they had only 200 loads of laundry at the other facility.

Although the free laundry service, which occurs on the third Tuesday of every month, is typically held in Girard, the team decided to host it in Pittsburg for the first time.

Within the first two hours, the team of three individuals had put roughly \$400 worth of quarters into the machines for people. Family Response Advocate Diann Gambill said for two hours straight every machine was full and running.

"I'm super amazed by the turnout," Gambill said. "This has been the largest that we've had since we started this."

LHEAT paid for community members to wash and dry up to 10 loads of laundry and provided detergent and dryer sheets. LHEAT is under Live Well Crawford County and received a grant to provide the free laundry service.

Gambill pointed out that for both adults and children, dirty clothes can affect health, both mental and physical. Clean clothes and bedding affect a person's overall well-being.

Eileen, a Pittsburg resident, is a mother of four with a dryer on the fritz.

"We've been so busy that laundry fell behind," she said. "And this is a huge blessing because my dryer takes three cycles to

dry one load. It's just amazing, and it takes so much off of my plate."

Pittsburg resident Dollie Coen said today was her first time using the free service because she couldn't make it to Girard in previous months. She said this service will help her a lot this week financially and it helps keep her house clean.

"I want to say thank you for the people who planned it and does it for us," she said. "And keep up the good job."

Coen went on to say that she loves this laundromat, and that the owner, Lane Ferraro, always keeps the facility clean. Gambill agreed.

"Lane [the owner] has been gracious enough to let us use his facility," Gambill said. "So, we're pretty blessed to have it in Pittsburg with more machines and air conditioning. And we've had a lot more people than in previous places we have held this."

Convenient Laundromat Owner Lane Ferraro pointed out that not spending money on laundry will help people get ahead financially for the week or month.

"I hope we do this here every month," Ferraro said. "There's a lot of people out there who are nickel-and-dimeing to get by that need this."

The next free laundry service will be on Sept. 15 at Convenient Laundromat, 904 S. Joplin Street.

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