

Transgender woman strives to preserve marriage to wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a transgender female who is working on my marriage to my wife of 41 years. I started my transition in 2011.

We have had our ups and downs during the course of our marriage. We have two sons and eight beautiful grandchildren. All of them know about my transition to womanhood, and my family also knows. What I need now is some advice to help our marriage. We are strongly committed to working on it.

— REAL ME IN OHIO

DEAR REAL YOU: Many couples choose to stay together and keep their marriage intact when one partner transitions. You and your wife can find help — and support — at the nearest LGBT center that offers couples counseling. If there isn't one in your community, check the nearest large city to where you live.

You and your wife should also reach out to the Straight Spouse Network, which has been mentioned in my column before. This group was started in 1986 by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., and its mission is to build bridges of understanding for couples of mixed sexual orientation or gender variance. The contact information is straight-spouse.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have two adult children who are divorced and both live out of state. My son has no children, and my daughter has two who are now adults. I'm close to my son but have been estranged from my daughter and grandchildren for almost 20 years. (There is no possibility of a reconciliation.)

I have not explained the details about this situation to anyone. My close friends know I have no contact with them and, thankfully, to their credit, they haven't asked. My co-workers, however, want to know about my family. I have tried giving them generic information, such as "they live out of state," but a few keep asking for more details, such as when are they coming to visit, what do they do, etc. Some are being friendly, but a couple of them are busybodies. What can I say to deter them and their questions without being rude?

— COMPLICATED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR COMPLICATED: This situation is more common than many people realize, and the best way to stop nosy people from repeatedly asking questions would simply be to say, "We are estranged." Period. If someone is so insensitive as to question you about why, you are free to say you prefer not to discuss it — now or ever.

DEAR ABBY: What would you say about a married man who cultivates online friendships with young women? He is in contact with one of them every hour, calling or texting.

Mostly it is innocent, but there are very warm texts that include "kisses" icons ("just pictures, nothing more").

He does not hide this from his wife. He tells her he is enjoying very much the communication with a young, beautiful woman. He says it is just a game for him, he has no feelings for them, he loves his wife and only her (and she feels it strongly). Do you think this kind of communication is acceptable?

— TRIVIAL FLIRT IN RUSSIA

DEAR TRIVIAL FLIRT: I don't think so. The husband may not be cheating on his wife in the classic sense, but calling and texting is not only disrespectful to the wife he says he loves, but also to the young women who may not understand that it's "just a game."

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for five years and together with my husband for 15. I love him, and I try to look attractive for him.

I recently got a shorter haircut that I thought looks nice. When my husband saw it, his reaction was, "It doesn't look bad," and, "If you like it, that's all that matters." I can't help but feel slighted and a little hurt. Am I being too sensitive?

— HURT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR HURT: Maybe. Your husband is entitled to his reaction, and he was honest with you. Would you have preferred that he lie? If you like the new hairstyle, keep it. If you are having second thoughts, remember it's not an arm or a leg; it's only hair, and it will grow.

Fire threat brings power cuts to thousands in California

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands of people in Northern California woke up Tuesday without electricity after Pacific Gas & Electric cut power to try to prevent wildfires amid windy, dry and hot conditions.

PG&E cut electrical service to 24,000 customers in three counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills Monday evening, saying power will remain off until weather conditions improve.

The utility said it may restore service briefly on Tuesday before it cuts it Tuesday night.

Butte County is where a wildfire blamed on PG&E transmission lines killed 86 people last year and virtually leveled the town of Paradise.

PG&E warned it might expand the precautionary outages on Tuesday to six additional counties if gusty winds and hot, dry weather continue.

Thousands of others elsewhere may face power cuts as utilities seek to prevent wildfires amid hot weather expected through Thursday.

Red Flag warnings of fire danger were in effect Tuesday north and east of San Francisco, and forecasters predict a brief burst of Santa Ana winds in Southern California.

East and west of Los Angeles, nearly 90,000 Southern California Edison customers were advised they could be blacked out, but no Red Flag warnings were issued.

Strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures were forecast in the state



Rich Pedroncelli/AP file photo

In this Nov. 26, 2018, photo, a Pacific Gas & Electric lineman works to repair a power line in Paradise, California.

through Wednesday, and authorities issued an extreme fire danger warning for some areas.

Wind gusts could reach 50 mph in the northern Sierra and foothills, and between 30 to 40 mph in the Sacramento Valley and near the Pacific coast, said Eric Kurth, a forecaster with the National Weather Service.

"Humidity levels are dropping, and winds are picking up," Kurth said. "The main threat is overnight when the winds pick up in the mountains and foothills."

Some of the most destructive blazes in the state in the past two years were started by PG&E power lines. Winds can knock down live wires and power poles or drive trees and other vegetation into contact with them.

PG&E first cut off power preemptively last October, affecting some 87,000 customers. The move prompted complaints and demands for reimbursement.

But the utility canceled

plans to shut off power ahead of the deadly Nov. 8 blaze that started near Paradise.

An investigation by Cal Fire said transmission lines owned and operated by the utility started the fire that wiped out nearly 15,000 homes.

California regulators in May approved allowing utilities to cut off electricity to avoid catastrophic wildfires but said utilities must do a better job ramping up preventive efforts and educating and notifying the public, particularly people with disabilities and others who are vulnerable.

In January, PG&E sought bankruptcy protection, saying it could not afford an estimated \$30 billion in potential damages from lawsuits stemming from catastrophic wildfires.

Earlier this month, PG&E agreed to pay \$11 billion to insurance companies holding 85% of the claims from fires that include the Paradise blaze.

weather

TONIGHT Partly cloudy	THU Clouds breaking	FRI Partly sunny	SAT Clouds and sun, a shower	SUN Cloudy, a shower, cold
Baker City 37 Comfort Index™ 10	76 46 10	69 35 10	52 30 2	51 28 2
La Grande 45 Comfort Index™ 9	69 48 9	66 39 9	48 30 1	48 28 0
Enterprise 42 Comfort Index™ 10	65 45 8	64 35 8	46 28 0	45 28 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 Monday	71°	71°	69°	
Low Monday	44°	51°	51°	
PRECIPITATION (inches)				
Monday	0.00	0.00	0.13	
Month to date	0.74	1.17	1.62	
Normal month to date	0.44	0.50	0.61	
Year to date	7.03	12.46	22.43	
Normal year to date	7.51	11.37	15.64	

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION THURSDAY
Lowest relative humidity	35%
Afternoon wind	WNW at 7 to 14 mph
Hours of sunshine	6.7
Evapotranspiration	0.13

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Tuesday)	
Phillips Reservoir	23% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	27% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	65% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	43% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	26% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	6% of capacity
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Monday)	
Grande Ronde at Troy	788 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	27 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	52 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	44 cfs
Minam River at Minam	84 cfs
Powder River near Richland	53 cfs

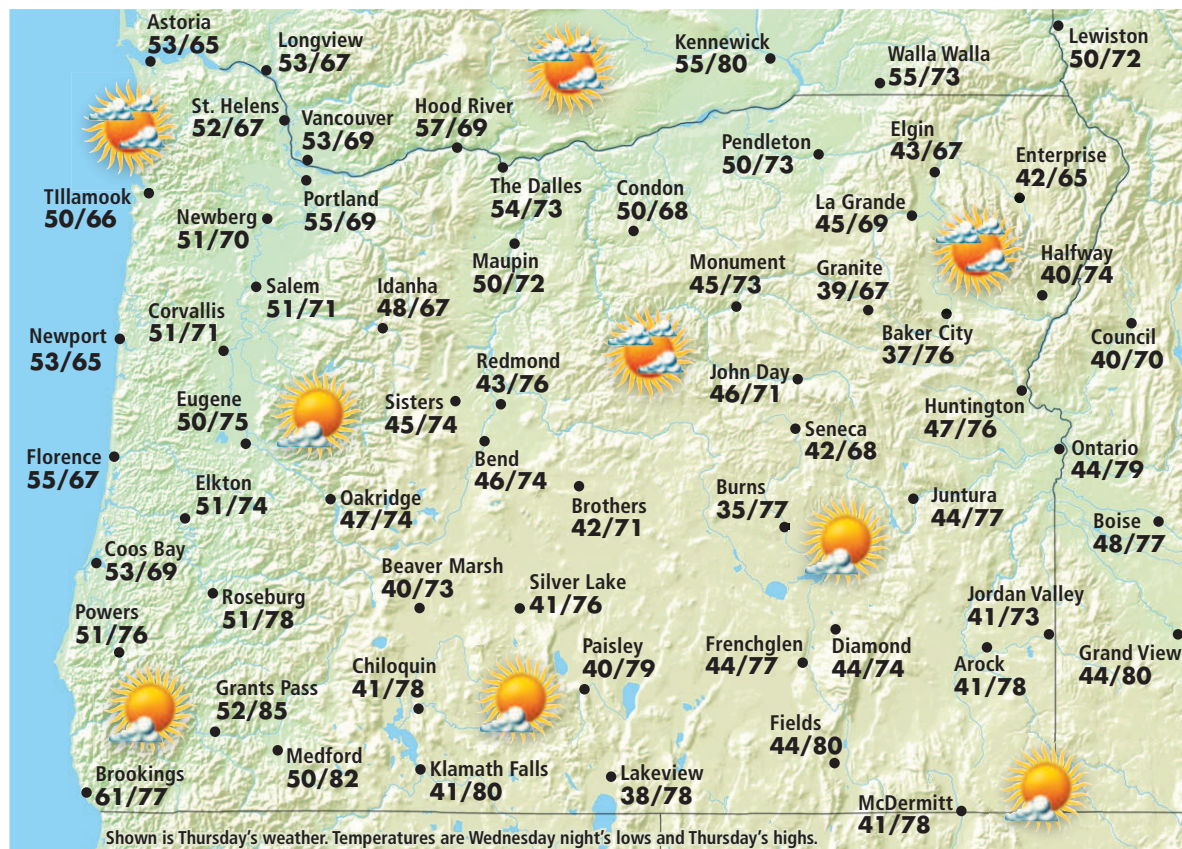
MONDAY EXTREMES	NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 103°	Death Valley, Calif.
Low: 16°	Angel Fire, N.M.
Wettest: 2.41"	Whitefield, N.H.
OREGON	
High: 77°	Ontario
Low: 33°	Klamath Falls
Wettest: Trace	Meacham

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	WED.	THU.
Sunrise	6:42 a.m.	6:44 a.m.
Sunset	6:45 p.m.	6:43 p.m.
Moonrise	2:25 a.m.	3:43 a.m.
Moonset	5:31 p.m.	6:07 p.m.
MOON PHASES		
New	First	Full
Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 13
		Last
		Oct 21

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



REGIONAL CITIES

City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W	City	THU. HI/Lo/W	FRI. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	65/52/sh	62/47/c	Lewiston	72/54/pc	71/47/pc
Bend	74/45/s	65/36/c	Longview	67/50/sh	61/45/c
Boise	77/52/pc	71/42/c	Meacham	65/45/pc	62/36/pc
Brookings	77/56/pc	70/50/s	Medford	82/54/r	72/46/pc
Burns	77/41/pc	68/32/pc	Newport	65/53/r	62/49/sh
Coos Bay	69/52/pc	64/48/c	Olympia	68/49/sh	62/41/c
Corvallis	71/48/pc	65/45/c	Ontario	79/52/pc	76/45/c
Council	70/47/pc	69/39/c	Pasco	81/52/s	72/47/pc
Elgin	67/48/pc	64/39/pc	Pendleton	73/50/pc	66/43/pc
Eugene	75/50/pc	67/45/c	Portland	69/52/pc	63/48/c
Hermiston	78/52/pc	70/48/pc	Powers	76/53/pc	68/48/pc
Hood River	69/54/sh	62/46/c	Redmond	76/45/s	66/37/c
Imnaha	69/50/c	69/43/c	Roseburg	78/55/pc	70/49/pc
John Day	71/48/pc	65/38/pc	Salem	71/49/c	64/45/c
Joseph	66/45/c	65/35/pc	Spokane	67/47/pc	60/37/c
Kennewick	80/51/s	72/47/pc	The Dalles	73/54/s	65/47/pc
Klamath Falls	80/42/s	67/33/pc	Ukiah	66/42/pc	61/35/pc
Lakeview	78/38/s	68/33/pc	Walla Walla	73/54/pc	68/45/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 THURSDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Inc. clouds	48 32		PHILLIPS LAKE Partly sunny	69 42	
MT. EMILY REC. Clouds breaking	57 41		BROWNLEE RES. Variable clouds	74 48	
EAGLE CAP WILD. Partly sunny	54 36		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Clouds breaking	61 39	
WALLOWA LAKE Clouds	66 45		MCKAY RESERVOIR Partly sunny	72 49	
THIEF VALLEY RES. Partly sunny	76 46		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Clouds breaking	69 48	

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