

Wedding guest list is full of questions for bride-to-be

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to the love of my life (“Tom”), and I dread making the guest list for our wedding. I don’t want any of my cousins there. The young ones are rude and obnoxious, and the one who’s an adult I no longer talk to. I asked my mom what to do. She said if we invite any kids, then we must invite all of them.

We would like my fiancé’s young nieces and nephews to be in the wedding party. Tom said he isn’t inviting anyone he doesn’t want there. A few family members invited me to their weddings because my parents were invited, but I don’t feel I know them well enough to invite them to mine, although one couple was kind enough to get us an engagement present. I want to be nice, but I don’t want any nonsense. Please help.

— TORN IN THE EAST

DEAR TORN: Your mother has the right idea. Listen to her. Weddings can bring families together, but they can also do the opposite. The relatives you are thinking of excluding are the children of your parents’ siblings. If you don’t know them well, be gracious. Should you snub them while including your fiancé’s nieces and nephews, word will get back to them — trust me on that — and the negative repercussions could last for many years and affect not just you but also your parents.

DEAR ABBY: I work for a large company that handles calls from all around the U.S. It amazes me how many people call and don’t realize we can’t hear them when their TV is blaring, their kids are screaming or their dogs are barking.

My plea to callers: Please choose a quiet, uninterrupted time so we can help you. Also, we are able to hear you when you are using the bathroom during your call, and that includes every little sound you are making. It’s not pleasant, thank you very much!

And when we ask you for your mailing address, try to remember that we are not around the block from you. Give us your entire address, including the ZIP code, because lots of states have towns with the same names. And oh, by the way, when you’re eating that snack, the crunching and bag crumpling are like

explosions in our ears. Please help us to help you when you call, and be courteous. We are regular people just like you.

— HERE TO HELP YOU

DEAR HERE TO HELP: I hear you loud and clear, and so do my readers. I’m printing your letter because sometimes “regular people” just need to be reminded.

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I have a preteen daughter, and for the last couple of years we have read Hanukkah books and lit the menorah, always saying the prayers. We are not Jewish, but I want her to be tolerant of all religions and cultures. Is this disrespectful to the Jewish community?

— LOVE TO ALL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOVE: I don’t think so. As long as you’re celebrating, because Hanukkah lasts eight days, give your daughter a little gift each night so she can enjoy all the benefits of the holiday while she’s at it.

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister and I are roommates. Although we usually get along well, she does one thing in particular that bothers me. When she goes out on a date (or home) with a guy she doesn’t want me to know about, she lies. She’ll tell me she’s at a happy hour, a friend’s house or still at work. I realize she doesn’t have to tell me where she is 24/7, but I hate being lied to.

It scares and upsets me when midnight rolls around on a weeknight, she still hasn’t returned from her “happy hour,” and won’t answer my texts or calls. I have told her numerous times that for safety reasons I wish she’d be honest and let me know where she’s going and whom she’s with. She accuses me of trying to pry into her personal life. How can I get her to see my side?

— TWO SIDES IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TWO SIDES: People who keep secrets often have something to hide. If your sister were proud of what she’s doing (and the men she is with), she wouldn’t be so secretive. As well-intentioned as you are, you can’t force her to level with you. And because of that, it might lower the stress in your life if the two of you make other living arrangements.

California faces fraught path out of wildfire, power crisis

By Jonathan J. Cooper
The Associated Press

The utility that serves more than 5 million electrical customers in one of the world’s most technologically advanced areas is now faced again and again with a no-win decision: risk starting catastrophic deadly wildfires, or turn off the lights and immiserate millions of paying customers.

Pacific Gas & Electric is in bankruptcy, facing \$30 billion in liabilities, billions more in needed upgrades to its system and an uncertain path to safely providing reliable power to a vast portion of California.

How that came to be is a story not of a single villain but of systemic failure by the utility’s management, the regulators who oversee it and the politicians who let it all happen. It’s a story of climate change, a housing crisis and an aging power system that, like much of the infrastructure in the U.S., has fallen into disrepair.

“There’s a ton of blame to go around here,” said Christopher Knittel, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Sloan School of Management.

The problem and its potential solutions have jumped to the top of the California political agenda. But most experts agree: Even under the best scenarios, the fires and widespread power shutoffs will be here for years to come. In the meantime, Californians will pay higher prices for less reliable energy.

“It’s not just going to be a PG&E cost, isolated from impact on the consumer,” said Matthew Cordaro, a longtime utility executive and a trustee for the Long Island Power Authority, which sustained significant damage during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. “The consumer’s going to have to pay for it.”

The danger from a growing number of people living next to power lines and dry forests as the climate changes wasn’t unknown, but it wasn’t front of mind before electrical systems started a series of fires that swept through Northern California two years ago, leaving a trail of destruction and killing dozens. What seemed unthinkable was repeated just a year later, when PG&E power lines started the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people.

PG&E operates some 125,000 miles of

power lines, enough to wrap around the equator five times. Much of the system traverses remote forests that are dry from years of drought and dense from a lack of logging or natural fires. California has 138 million dead trees, all of them potential fuel for fire.

Meanwhile, a shortage of housing in cities — and stiff resistance to building more — has pushed new construction into forested areas, where there are few barriers to building.

And the climate is warming. While scientists can’t blame climate change alone for any one fire, they say it contributes to drier brush, hotter temperatures and stronger winds, all of which help flames spread farther, faster. Five of the 10 largest fires and seven of the 10 most destructive have happened in the last decade. The deadliest were started by power lines.

More than half of PG&E’s 70,000 square miles of service territory is designated as high risk for fires, according to the company’s wildfire mitigation plan submitted this year to the state’s utility regulator, the California Public Utilities Commission.

Operating in that environment poses challenges for any company, but PG&E has an especially checkered past.

The company neglected to maintain its systems so egregiously that it was found criminally liable for a deadly explosion in its natural gas system that killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in San Bruno, California, in 2010. It was fined and placed on probation when a jury found the company cut corners on safety and misled investigators in an attempt to cover it up.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has accused PG&E of prioritizing its shareholders and executives over the maintenance, upgrades and tree trimming that could prevent wildfires and limit the misery from intentional blackouts. The company has reported it still has 2,700 miles of outdated copper wire, which is prone to breakage and arcing, in high-risk fire zones.

“A lot of money went to dividends that should’ve gone to your trees. Get square with the people of California, who depend on you to do the job safely,” U.S. District Judge William Alsup told a PG&E lawyer during an April probation hearing, KQED News reported.

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weather

	TONIGHT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mild with some sun	Mild with variable clouds	Mostly cloudy
Baker City	30	54 29	58 27	57 28	52 28
Comfort Index™	8	8	9	9	5
La Grande	36	54 36	59 38	57 39	53 36
Comfort Index™	6	7	8	7	7
Enterprise	32	50 35	57 36	55 36	52 34
Comfort Index™	6	7	10	9	7

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 Wednesday	59°	57°	60°
Low Wednesday	23°	26°	30°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Wednesday	0.00	0.00	0.07
Month to date	Trace	0.01	0.07
Normal month to date	0.37	0.85	1.22
Year to date	7.14	13.11	25.92
Normal year to date	8.62	13.68	18.77

AGRICULTURAL INFO.		
HAY INFORMATION SATURDAY		
Lowest relative humidity		45%
Afternoon wind	SSE at 6 to 12 mph	
Hours of sunshine		1.8
Evapotranspiration		0.06

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Thursday)		
Phillips Reservoir	22% of capacity	
Unity Reservoir	32% of capacity	
Owyhee Reservoir	63% of capacity	
McKay Reservoir	22% of capacity	
Wallowa Lake	29% of capacity	
Thief Valley Reservoir	38% of capacity	

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Wednesday)		
Grande Ronde at Troy	806 cfs	
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs	
Burnt River near Unity	13 cfs	
Umatilla River near Gibbon	56 cfs	
Minam River at Minam	87 cfs	
Powder River near Richland	28 cfs	

WED. EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 87°	Hollywood, Fla.
Low: -10°	Doe Lake, Mich.
Wettest: 1.76"	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

OREGON	
High: 66°	Newport
Low: 19°	Burns
Wettest: Trace	Brookings

WEATHER HISTORY

A devastating tornado cut an 18.5-mile-long path through Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 15, 1989. Twenty-one people died, and 463 were injured. Over 500 buildings were damaged at a cost of \$100 million.

SUN & MOON

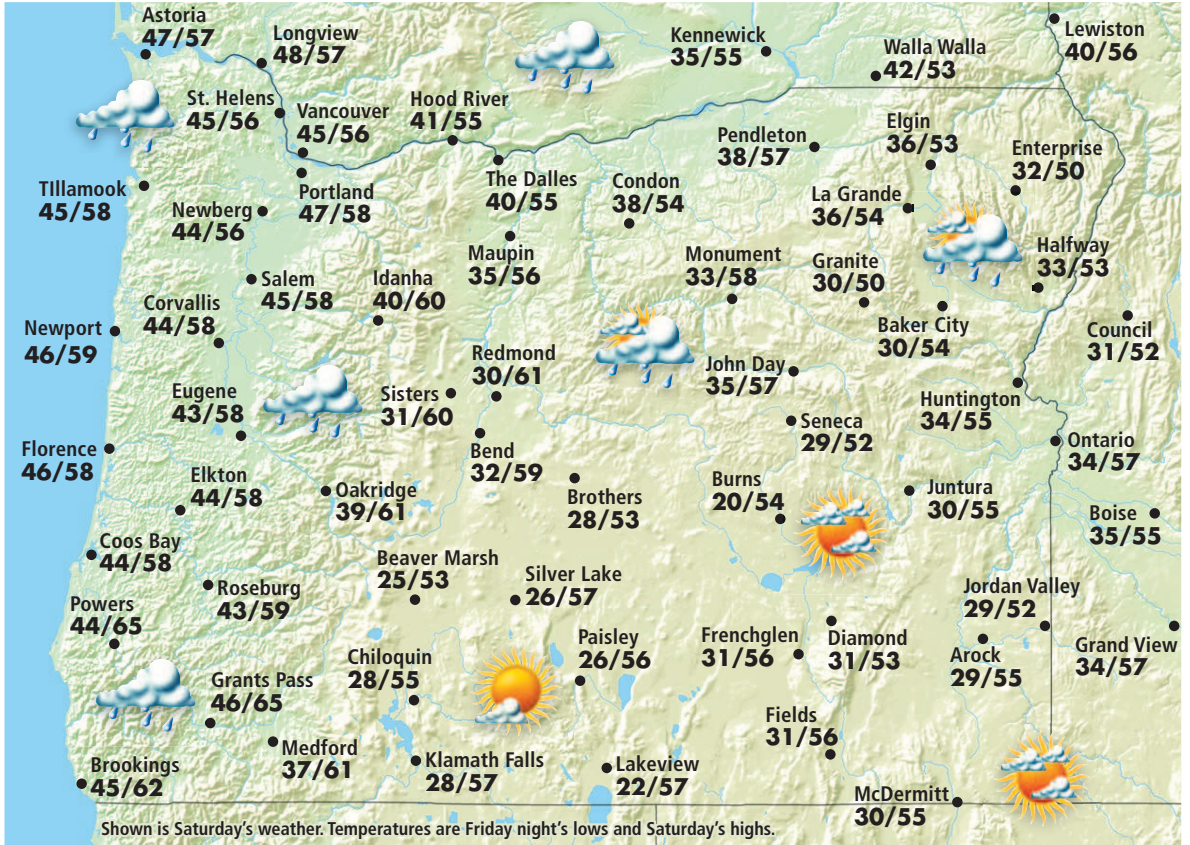
	FRI.	SAT.
Sunrise	6:50 a.m.	6:52 a.m.
Sunset	4:23 p.m.	4:22 p.m.
Moonrise	6:57 p.m.	7:54 p.m.
Moonsset	9:57 a.m.	10:56 a.m.

MOON PHASES

Last	New	First	Full
Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 11

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	57/49/c	57/46/r
Bend	59/38/s	67/36/pc
Boise	55/34/s	59/34/pc
Brookings	62/46/pc	64/48/pc
Burns	54/20/s	64/23/pc
Coos Bay	58/43/pc	60/47/pc
Corvallis	58/39/pc	62/46/pc
Council	52/33/s	54/33/pc
Elgin	53/35/s	58/39/pc
Eugene	58/39/pc	62/44/pc
Hermiston	56/37/pc	63/43/pc
Hood River	55/40/s	59/45/pc
Imnaha	55/43/pc	59/39/pc
John Day	57/41/s	62/42/pc
Joseph	50/36/s	57/35/pc
Kennewick	55/39/pc	63/44/c
Klamath Falls	57/25/pc	63/27/pc
Lakeview	57/24/s	64/25/pc

City	SAT. HI/Lo/W	SUN. HI/Lo/W
Lewiston	56/41/pc	55/43/pc
Longview	57/44/c	55/48/r
Meacham	51/36/s	57/38/pc
Medford	61/34/pc	66/39/pc
Newport	59/46/pc	58/48/r
Olympia	55/46/c	56/42/r
Ontario	57/31/s	57/29/pc
Pasco	55/37/pc	62/40/c
Pendleton	57/41/s	63/43/pc
Portland	58/45/pc	57/48/sh
Powers	65/44/pc	68/46/pc
Redmond	61/33/s	70/31/pc
Roseburg	59/41/pc	65/43/pc
Salem	58/41/pc	59/47/c
Spokane	47/40/c	50/38/pc
The Dalles	55/37/s	59/43/pc
Ukiah	53/35/s	60/36/pc
Walla Walla	53/42/s	58/45/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

RECREATION FORECAST SATURDAY

ANTHONY LAKES Mostly sunny

38 27



PHILLIPS LAKE Mostly sunny

51 30



MT. EMILY REC. Mostly sunny

45 34



BROWNLEE RES. Mostly sunny

57 36



EAGLE CAP WILD. Mostly sunny

40 27



EMIGRANT ST. PARK Mostly sunny

51 33



WALLOWA LAKE Mostly sunny

50 36



MCKAY RESERVOIR Mostly sunny

58 42



THIEF VALLEY RES. Mostly sunny

54 29



RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Mostly sunny

54 36



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