

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High: 59 Low: 46 Precip: 50%	High: 58 Low: 43 Precip: 80%	High: 54 Low: 41 Precip: 80%

IN BRIEF

Warm weather can lead to North American monsoons

Research by a University of Oregon professor says global warming may lead to monsoons in the Pacific Northwest.

That's what happened during another global warming event 55 million years ago that was triggered by a sudden release of methane stored in permafrost and ice beneath the sea bed. Average temperatures shot up six degrees and seasonal rainfall rose by an estimated 50 percent in North and South America.

University of Oregon geology professor Greg Retallack analyzed soils laid to see how the climate changed.

The event is documented for effects on temperature, but Retallack sought more details, such as precipitation.

"What the soil seems to tell us is it got wetter, quite a bit wetter," said Retallack, an authority on ancient soils.

That's a classic monsoon pattern, a season of drenching rain followed by

one of heat and dryness.

During the late Paleocene epoch, monsoon climates extended into what are now temperate latitudes.

For example, Retallack's analysis of soils in Utah found that rainfall jumped from 16 inches per year to 26 inches a year, with an average temperature increase of almost 10 degrees.

In Northwest areas, he said that translates into a rise from the current 50 inches a year to 80 inches.

What happened 55 million years ago probably was triggered by a sudden intrusion of magma into buried ice and permafrost or possibly a meteor impact. The ice melted and released its stored methane which ultimately contributed to a greenhouse environment.

— The Associated Press

Oregonians remember life and honor death of Pope

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Services continue across Oregon this week in remembrance of Pope John Paul II, who died over the weekend. At Jesuit High School in Portland, students gathered to honor the life of the pontiff who has led the Roman Catholic Church since before they were born.

"His words have been used on retreats at our school and as sources of inspiration in our classrooms and hallways," said Jesuit President Richard M. Gedrose. "For our students, this will be a time when they will watch the church closely. It's not just the fascination of a unique, sacred and mysterious process, but also a sign of deep faithful hope."

Jesuit High School scheduled an all-school mass on Monday morning for John Paul II, following his

death on Saturday.

The Archdiocese of Portland planned a memorial Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday night.

"We will remember his zest for life, his love for young people and his compassion for the most vulnerable among us," Archbishop John George Vlazny said. "Throughout these 26 plus years, Pope John Paul II taught us how to live and now he has shown us how to die. We mourn his loss and we celebrate his life."

Bishop Robert Francis Vasa, whose diocese of Baker oversees Oregon's Eastern Oregon Catholic churches, said the pope will be remembered for his special connection with young people. "He had greater expectations for them than they had for themselves," Vasa said.

Vasa and Vlazny oversee the churches of Oregon's 426,000 Roman Catholics, who will now watch as a new pope is chosen.

Steve Overman, senior pastor at the Eugene Faith Center, first greeted John Paul in 1997 in Rome as part of a contingent of religious leaders seeking closer ties between Catholic and Pentecostal churches.

"His frailty was noticeable even then, but his determination was so clear," Overman said. "He was such an intentional person, so determined."

Overman said he last saw the pope in 2000 at a Feast of St. Peter service in Rome.

"His procession took 20 minutes, and people were reaching out and trying to touch him at a Mass," Overman said. "It was a celebrity moment."

University of Oregon Bookstore ANNUAL MEETING

3:30 p.m. GERLINGER LOUNGE Tuesday, April 19, 2005

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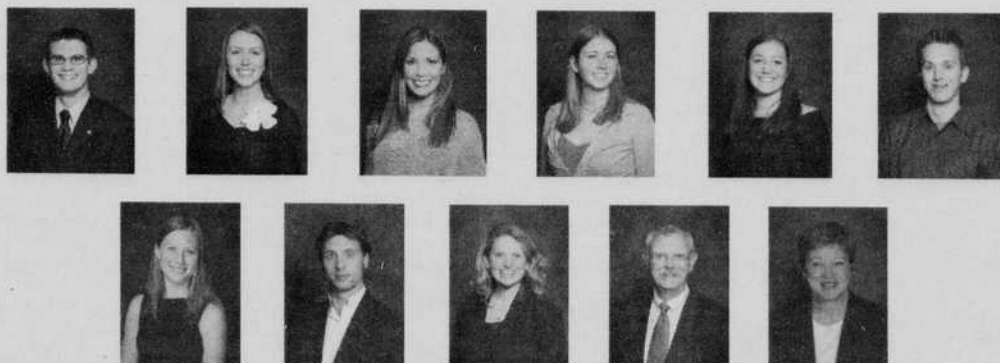
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