

West getting roasted by ever-hotter summer days

West is fastest-warming region in country, up 3 degrees on average since 1990

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — As outlandish as the killer heat wave that struck the Pacific Northwest was, it fits into a decades-long pattern of uneven summer warming across the United States.

The West is getting roasted by hotter summer days while the East Coast is getting swamped by hotter and stickier summer nights, an analysis of decades of U.S. summer weather data by The Associated Press shows.

State-by-state average temperature trends from 1990 to 2020 show America's summer swelter is increasing more in some of the places that just got baked with extreme heat over the past week: California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and Colorado.

The West is the fastest-warming region in the country during June, July and August, up 3 degrees on average since 1990. The Northwest has warmed nearly twice as much in the past 30 years as it has in the Southeast.

That includes Portland, which set a record 116-degree high that was 3 degrees warmer than temperatures ever recorded

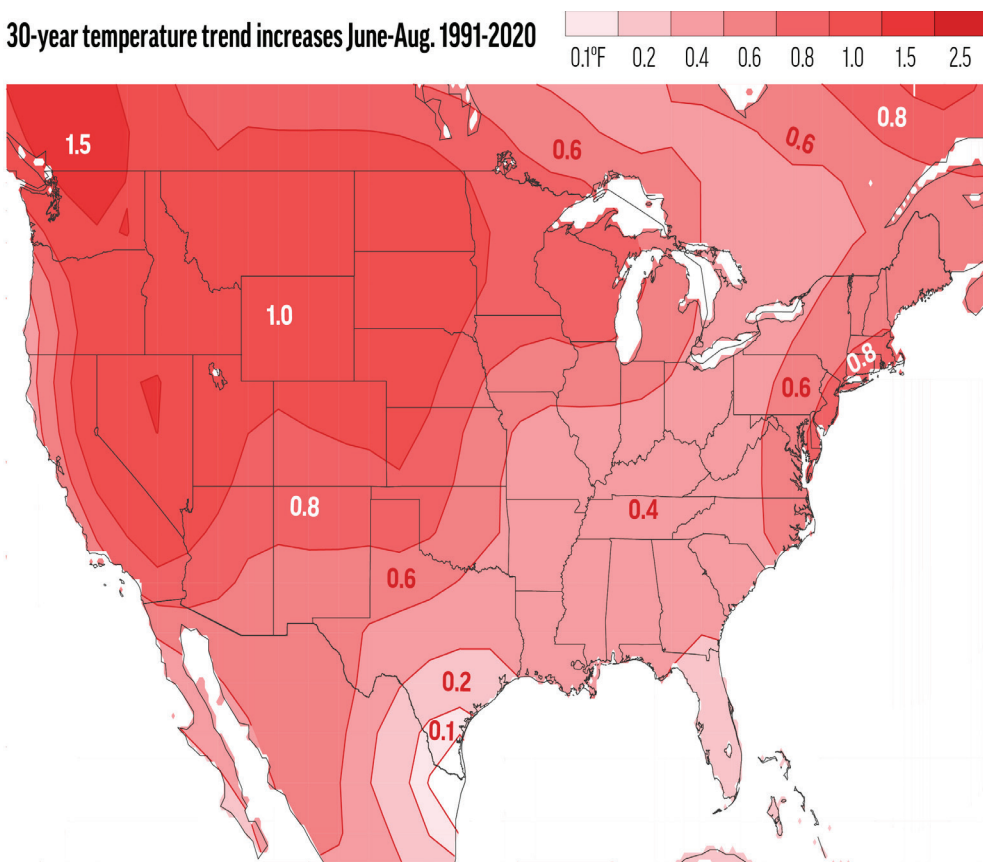
in Oklahoma City or Dallas-Fort Worth.

Although much of the primary cause of the past week's extreme heat was an unusual but natural weather condition, scientists see the fingerprint of human-caused climate change, citing altered weather patterns that park heat in different places for longer periods.

"The ridiculous temperatures in the Pacific Northwest may on one hand be considered a black swan (ultra-rare) event, but on the other hand are totally consistent" with long-term trends, said meteorologist Judah Cohen of the private firm Atmospheric and Environmental Research. "So I am not going to predict when is the next time Portland will hit 116 but I believe hotter summers for the broader region are here to stay."

Climate change is altering and weakening the jet stream, narrow bands of wind that circle the Earth flowing west to east. Those changes allow key weather-producing patterns of high and low pressure to stall in place. High pressure is stalling more often in the West in summer, said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann. High pressure brings

30-year temperature trend increases June-Aug. 1991-2020



Source: Judah Cohen, Atmospheric and Environmental Research

hot and dry weather that, when stalled, can create what are known as heat domes. Low pressure brings wet weather.

Another factor is higher water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean that also generate more so-called high-pressure ridges in the West, said Gerald Meehl, a National Center for Atmospheric Research scientist who studies heat waves.

These patterns are showing up so often that their effects can be seen in

long-term data. The U.S. Northwest, western Canada and Siberia, which also just saw a stunning heat wave, are among Earth's fastest warming land areas during summer since 1990, Cohen said.

The Midwest is warming slower during the summer than either coast. That's because stalled low-pressure areas often drive cooler air into the Great Lakes region, said North Illinois University climate scientist Victor Gensini.

Water explains the big difference between western and eastern heat trends, scientists said.

"In western states where drought has been expanding and intensifying during the past decade, soil moisture has been declining. Dry soil heats up faster than moist soil during the day because all the solar energy goes into heating rather than into evaporating moisture," said Jennifer Francis, a climate scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center.

"Dry soil also cools off faster at night."

That's partly why the West, which is getting drier by the decade and is mired in a 20-year mega-drought, is seeing those crazy triple-digit daytime temperatures.

The East is getting wetter by the decade, NOAA records show, and the East Coast is seeing its biggest warming increase at night. The overnight lows in New Jersey and Delaware have warmed 3 degrees since 1990, the biggest increases in the nation.

Water vapor is a greenhouse gas, Francis explained, "so at night it traps more of the heat."

Kathie Dello, North Carolina's state climatologist, attributes the trends to human-caused warming. "There's no other explanation," she said.

She added that while the extreme daytime highs may be eye-popping, warmer nights can also be dangerous.

"Warm nights may not sound like a problem, but they are a public health risk for people who lack sufficient cooling," she said.

And hiding from the heat is becoming harder and harder: "All my places to go for a quick break were absurdly hot — Oregon, North Carolina, even upstate New York? Where is left to go? Even Canada isn't safe."

Hate, bias crimes increase in state

By **JACK FORREST**
The Oregonian

SALEM — Reports of race and bias to Oregon's bias hotline rose by 134% during the second half of 2020, according to an annual report from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

A 2019 law passed by the Legislature requires the commission to compile and review all data on reports of hate and bias made to Oregon Department of Justice's Bias Response Hotline, along with data from law enforcement agencies and courts across the state. This is the commission's second annual report delivered on July 1 of every year.

The hotline received over 1,000 calls in 2020 reporting instances of racial slurs, threats, assault and murder that peaked in August after an initial jump in June.

There were about 470 reports in the first half of last year and 630 in the second. The hotline began taking calls for the first time on Jan. 2, 2020, which could help explain the jump in reports in the latter half of the year.

Among the reports, 492 were for harassment, 142 for assault and one for murder.

Over 60% of those reports, 454 in total, involved anti-Black incidents, including 250 directly related to Black Lives Matter protests and other reaction to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer, according to the report.

There were 110 reports of anti-Latino incidents, 68 anti-Asian incidents, 65 anti-Native American or anti-Alaskan Native incidents, 22 anti-Arab incidents and 21 anti-white reports, and over 100 reports did not specify a race.

Nearly 100 people reported a bias incident related to COVID-19 and the racial scapegoating associated with the pandemic.

HEALTH NOTIFICATION!

Are You Hard of Hearing?



A major name brand hearing aid provider wishes to field test a remarkable new digital hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation.

These revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears" and "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience.

If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our

office **FREE OF CHARGE** to determine candidacy and review your results with the hearing instruments with our hearing care specialist.

At the end of this evaluation, you may keep your instrument, if you so desire, at a tremendous savings for participating in this field test. Special testing will be done to determine the increased benefits of this technology.

Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing test, and proper fit.

This is a wonderful opportunity to determine if hearing help is available for your hearing loss and get hearing help at a very affordable price.

Call Now and Make a Reservation if you wish to be Included!

THIS WEEK ONLY!

OFFER EXPIRES JULY 14, 2021



The Miracle Ear Foundation

Since 1990 the Miracle-Ear Foundation™ has been providing hearing aids, follow-up care, and educational resources to people with hearing loss who demonstrate personal inability to financially provide for their hearing health needs. We do this because we believe everyone in our community deserves quality hearing instruments.

LA GRANDE
111 Elm Street
La Grande, OR 97850
541-605-2109

BAKER CITY
2021 Washington Ave.
Baker City, OR 97814
541-239-3782

ENTERPRISE
113-1/2 Front E. Main St.
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-239-3877

Special Notice State Employees
You may qualify for a hearing aid benefit up to \$4,000 every 4 years.
Call for eligibility status.

Mention Code:
21JulHealth

visit us online at: www.miracle-ear.com

Hearing tests are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. Hearing Aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences will vary depending on severity of loss, accuracy of evaluation by our Consultant, proper fit, and the ability to adjust amplification. Pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement, the aids must be returned within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition for a full refund.