

GOP seeks forest rules reform after wildfires

Faster approval for tree cutting

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Republicans are targeting environmental rules to allow faster approval for tree cutting in national forests in response to the deadly wildfires in California.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, said lawmakers will vote next week on a bill to loosen environmental regulations for forest-thinning projects on federal lands. The GOP argues the actions will reduce the risk of fire.

The Republican bill “includes reforms to keep our forests healthy and less susceptible to the types of fires that ravaged our state this month,” McCarthy said Thursday.

California has declared a public health emergency in the northern part of the state, where fires that began in early October have killed at least 42 people, making them the deadliest series of wildfires in state history. Authorities have warned residents returning to the ruins of their homes to beware of possible hazardous residues in the ashes, and required them to sign forms acknowledging the danger.

The GOP bill is one of at least three being considered in Congress to address wildfires.



An aerial view shows the devastation of the Coffey Park neighborhood after a wildfire swept through it in Santa Rosa, California.

Republicans and the timber industry have long complained about environmental rules that make it difficult to cut down trees to reduce fire risk. Plans to harvest trees on federal lands can take years to win approval.

Democrats and environmental groups decry GOP policies they say would bypass important environmental laws to clear-cut vast swaths of national forests, harming wildlife and the environment.

Democrats also complain that Republican proposals don’t acknowledge or address root causes for increasingly severe wildfire seasons, such as climate change or increased development near forest lands.

Failed to conserve
Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyoming, said Congress needs to act.

“We must ask ourselves: What kind of future are we leaving for the next genera-

tion when we have failed to conserve federal forests that overwhelm the sky with thick smoke and ash when they burn?” asked Barrasso, chief sponsor of the Senate GOP bill and chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Arkansas, sponsor of the House bill, said fires devastating communities across California, Montana and other western states show “how years of

unmanaged federal forests have wreaked havoc on our environment, polluting our air and water and destroying thousands of acres of wildlife habitat.”

The flurry of legislation comes as the Forest Service has spent a record \$2.4 billion battling forest fires in one of the nation’s worst fire seasons. Wildfires have burned nearly 9 million acres across the country, with much of the devastation in California, Oregon and Montana.

As of Thursday, six large fires were still burning in the West, including four in California.

Thin fire-prone trees

The other measures in Congress include a bipartisan Senate bill that would authorize more than \$100 million to help at-risk communities prevent wildfires and create a pilot program to cut down trees in the most fire-prone areas. The bill also calls for detailed reviews of any wildfire that burns over 100,000 acres.

Barrasso’s bill would waive environmental reviews for projects up to 6,000 acres and overturn a federal court decision that forced more consultation between the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service on forest management projects.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, said the House GOP bill ignores climate change and does little more than waive existing laws.

“Denying science and waiving the National Environmental Policy Act is the Republican prescription for everything,” said Grijalva, the senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee.

The panel’s chairman, Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, called the GOP bill “the only solution on the table to bend the cost curve of fire suppression and prevent wildfires from becoming uncontrollable, life-threatening calamities.”

Washington state rejects lease application for coal-export terminal

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — A state agency has rejected a request to use state-owned aquatic lands for a major coal-export terminal along the Columbia River.

The Department of Natural Resources nixed a proposal Wednesday by Northwest Alloys, which holds a lease with the state, to make construction changes related to the Millennium Bulk Terminal-Longview project in Longview.

Northwest Alloys submitted the request in August months after the department shot down its request to sublease the state’s lands to Millennium. Northwest Alloys and Millennium have appealed that decision and a Cowlitz County judge is hearing arguments today.

Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz told Northwest Alloys in a letter Wednesday that it is in the state’s best interest to deny the request at this time. She cited several factors includ-

ing that the state Department of Ecology’s denied the project a water quality permit.

Millennium President Bill Chapman said as of Wednesday evening he had not received any notice from the state but said after obtaining the letter from a journalist that with further discussion they will resubmit the plans as the letter specifies.

The company on Tuesday sued Ecology, arguing regulators unfairly denied the project the water quality permit.

Raw sewage spills into Columbia River

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — About 80,000 gallons of feces, urine and laundry waste rushed into the Columbia River on Wednesday.

The Columbian reports that the untreated sewage spewed into the river while a contrac-

tor was calibrating pumps at Vancouver’s Westside Wastewater Treatment facility.

This is the second such spill into the river in the past four weeks. The first release was about 400,000 gallons of raw sewage and 110,000 gallons of partially treated sewage.

Vancouver Public Information Officer Loretta Calahan said the spills are not related.

The Department of Ecology is investigating both incidents. The city could be directed to make specific fixes or receive a notice of violation. A fine is also a possibility.

Nominations open for local volunteer awards

The Daily Astorian

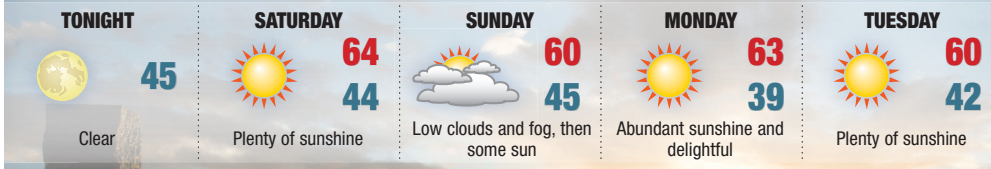
The Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce is taking applications for the region’s annual citizens of the year honors.

The George Award, named after a tongue-in-cheek state-

ment about getting someone else to take care of a task, honors people in Astoria who embody service and dedication. The Richard Ford Distinguished Service Award, named after a former building inspector, fire chief and volunteer, does the same in Warrenton.

Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. Dec. 1. The winners will be announced during the chamber’s annual banquet Jan. 27. Download an application at oldoregon.com, or pick one up at the chamber office — 111 W. Marine Drive — or Warrenton City Hall — 225 S. Main Ave.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures
High/low 64°/41°
Normal high/low 58°/43°
Record high 74° in 1908
Record low 32° in 1996

Precipitation
Thursday 0.00"
Month to date 8.93"
Normal month to date 4.64"
Year to date 62.14"
Normal year to date 44.88"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 6:09 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 7:51 a.m.
Moonrise today 2:33 p.m.
Moonset today none

First Full Last New
Oct 27 Nov 3 Nov 10 Nov 18

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: First Quarter Moon (3:22 p.m.).

TOMORROW’S TIDES

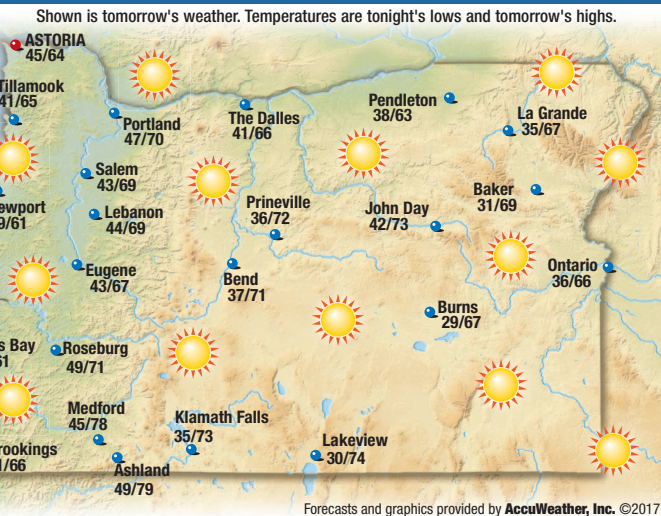
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
8:59 a.m.	6.7 ft.	1:58 a.m.	1.3 ft.
8:01 p.m.	6.7 ft.	2:35 p.m.	3.5 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	73	55	s	60	37	t	
Boston	62	48	c	66	55	s	
Chicago	46	36	c	45	31	c	
Denver	45	28	s	57	41	pc	
Des Moines	42	29	pc	46	27	c	
Detroit	58	37	r	47	35	r	
El Paso	66	42	s	69	45	s	
Fairbanks	36	26	sn	37	27	pc	
Honolulu	85	70	pc	84	71	pc	
Indianapolis	49	31	r	45	31	c	
Kansas City	45	27	pc	50	29	pc	
Las Vegas	85	61	s	84	60	s	
Los Angeles	89	64	s	87	64	s	
Memphis	59	35	r	53	34	pc	
Miami	83	73	pc	82	71	r	
Nashville	69	38	pc	52	34	pc	
New Orleans	81	49	c	61	45	pc	
New York	63	53	s	68	52	s	
Oklahoma City	51	28	s	56	35	s	
Philadelphia	65	51	s	72	60	s	
St. Louis	49	35	pc	49	31	c	
Salt Lake City	62	40	s	64	43	s	
San Francisco	78	55	s	71	54	s	
Seattle	65	46	s	66	47	s	
Washington, DC	68	52	s	71	56	pc	

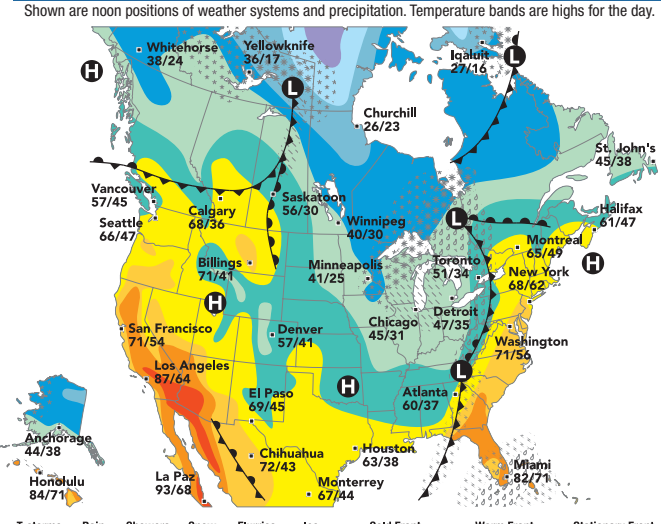
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Sat.	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	66	31	s	69	32	s		
Bend	63	37	s	71	40	s		
Brookings	64	52	s	63	51	s		
Eugene	68	43	s	67	44	s		
Ilwaco	66	46	s	62	46	s		
Klamath Falls	72	35	s	73	33	s		
Medford	80	45	s	78	45	s		
Newberg	70	43	s	68	43	s		
Newport	69	49	s	61	49	s		
North Bend	67	49	pc	61	49	s		
Olympia	63	38	s	67	40	s		
Pendleton	60	38	s	63	40	s		
Portland	69	47	s	70	46	s		
Roseburg	72	49	s	71	50	s		
Salem	71	43	s	69	45	s		
Seaside	69	44	s	64	45	s		
Spokane	56	38	s	60	39	s		
Springfield	68	44	s	69	46	s		
Vancouver	67	44	s	67	44	s		
Yakima	65	36	s	64	35	s		

TOMORROW’S NATIONAL WEATHER



ON THE RECORD

- Assault**
• At 11:48 a.m. Thursday, John Donaghue, 54, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 1860 block of Spruce Drive and charged with fourth-degree assault and menacing.
- Disorderly conduct**
• At 12:54 a.m. Friday, Joshua Daniel Kiley, 35, of Opa-locka, Florida, was arrested by the Astoria Police Department on the 2890 block of Marine Drive and charged with second-degree disorderly conduct. He allegedly was on top of another man on the sidewalk outside Annie’s Saloon and punching him. The alleged victim sustained injuries to his face but did not wish to pursue assault charges.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- MONDAY**
Astoria School Board, 5:30 p.m., special meeting to interview board candidates, Capt. Robert Gray third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.
- WEDNESDAY**
Warrenton Town Hall, 7 p.m., on the library levy and city parks, City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

LOTTERIES

- OREGON**
Estimated jackpot: \$25,000
Thursday’s Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 0-9-6-7
4 p.m.: 5-0-1-2
7 p.m.: 4-0-6-7
10 p.m.: 0-9-1-7
Thursday’s Lucky Lines: 04-07-11-13-FREE-18-22-27-30
- WASHINGTON**
Thursday’s Daily Game: 8-2-5
Thursday’s Keno: 03-04-08-09-16-17-23-26-27-33-35-40-43-45-48-49-54-69-71-76
Thursday’s Match 4: 05-06-15-16

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

The Daily Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com

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52 weeks in advance.....\$135.05	52 weeks in advance.....\$199.90

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

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