

PacifiCorp considers retiring some coal operations early

Move could save money for customers

By DAVID STEVES
Oregon Public Broadcasting

An energy company with hundreds of thousands of Oregon and Washington state customers is considering the early retirement of some of its coal-burning operations.

PacifiCorp released a new economic analysis Thursday that says its customers could save about \$248 million over 20 years if the company decides to retire four of its Wyoming coal units by 2022. That would mean closing one coal-fired plant and reducing another plant's capacity by half.

PacifiCorp spokesman Bob Gravely said any electricity production lost from the retirement of coal operations would be made up in other ways, possibly with energy from wind, solar and natural gas.

Burning coal is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. Coal accounts for 60 percent of the electricity that PacifiCorp provides to its customers. The company already is moving away from coal, Gravely says. But the new study suggests this move could happen faster than previously planned.



Katie Campbell/KCTS9

A coal mine operation in Wyoming.

"There is interest in seeing that happen," he said.

Sophie Hayes, a senior staff attorney with Western Resource Advocates, said the new study is part of a larger economic trend for coal-fired power plants.

"Coal plants across the West are becoming increasingly uneconomic as renewable energy costs and natural gas prices continue to drop," said Hayes, whose organization advocates for clean air, water and land. "This will also help protect the health and welfare of our families and future generations."

Retiring two of the four coal units at PacifiCorp's Jim Bridger Power Plant and both of the units that are part of the Naughton Power Plant would have a big impact on jobs and the demand for coal in Wyoming, where the plants operate and where their

coal is mined. Gravely said it would also mean a less carbon-intensive mix of electricity for PacifiCorp's Oregon customers.

"Even though the plants are located in Wyoming, it's an interconnected system so it is part of the power mix that serves customers in Oregon," he said.

In 2016, the Oregon Legislature passed a bill that requires PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric to phase out the supply of coal-fired power to the state by 2030 and double their renewable energy use by 2040. The new policy will eventually strip the utilities of their Oregon customers for coal-fired power.

The company serves 587,365 customers in Oregon and 131,453 customers in Washington state through its Pacific Power business unit.

Washington state judge blocks new Trump abortion rule

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

A U.S. judge in Washington state Thursday blocked new Trump administration rules that could cut off federal funding for health care providers who refer patients for an abortion.

Judge Stanley Bastian in Yakima granted the preliminary injunction in cases brought by the state and abortion rights groups, the Washington attorney general's office said.

The ruling came two days after a U.S. judge in Oregon, hearing a separate challenge by 20 states, said he intended to at least partially block the rules. They were due to take effect May 3.

The lawsuits said the administration's planned changes to the Title X family planning program, which was created in 1970 and serves 4 million patients, were a transparent attack on Planned Parenthood and would curb access to care such as contraception and breast and cervical cancer screening

for millions of low-income people.

In addition to banning abortion referrals by taxpayer-funded clinics, the changes would prohibit clinics that receive federal money from sharing office space with abortion providers — a rule critics said would force many to find new locations, undergo expensive remodels or shut down.

"All over the country, there are Title X providers looking at their patient schedules and wondering what they were going to do," said Clare Coleman, president of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, which sued. "Now we know that everyone can continue to do their care as they have been doing for the past 50 years."

The judge made his ruling from the bench and said he would issue a written opinion early next week, Coleman said.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal laws prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for

abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman. Religious conservatives and abortion opponents have long complained that Title X has been used to indirectly subsidize abortion providers.

Across Washington state in 2017, 14,000 patients received federally funded services at 85 of the clinics, many of them operated by Planned Parenthood.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson's lawsuit said Trump's policy violates the Affordable Care Act, which protects providers and patients from government interference in the health care relationship, and a federal law that requires doctors to provide information about abortion and prenatal care to patients in an unbiased manner.

It also violates the Administrative Procedures Act by contradicting Title X regulations without sufficient justification, and it violates doctors' right to free speech and women's right to an abortion under Roe v. Wade, he alleged.

Spring Chinook fishery reopens on the lower Columbia River

The Daily Astorian

Anglers will have another shot at spring Chinook on the lower Columbia River starting Saturday.

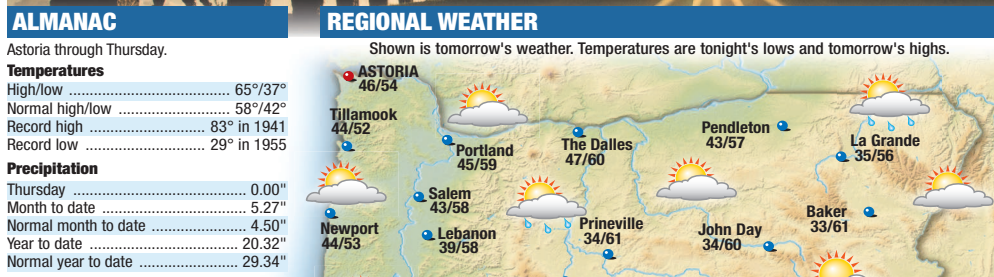
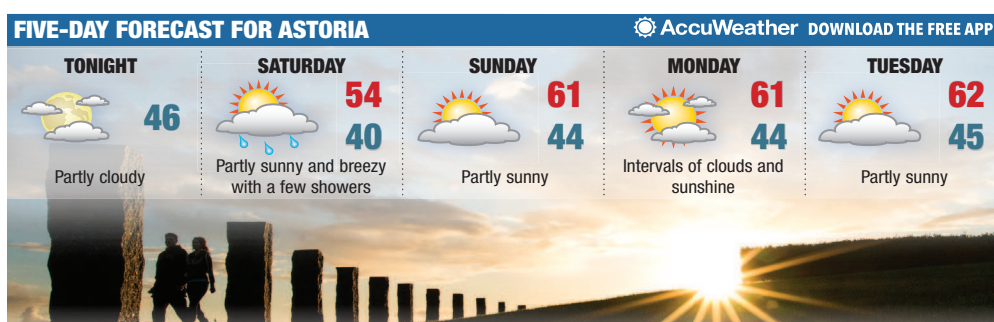
State fishery managers in Oregon and Washington state have added two days to the spring fishery after openings over the previous two weekends resulted in low catch rates because of poor water conditions.

The fishery will reopen for bank and boat angling on Saturday and Sunday on the Columbia River main stem from the Warrior Rock deadline upstream to Beacon Rock. From Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, only bank angling is allowed.

Fishery managers expect water conditions to remain challenging this weekend, however, due to high turbidity.

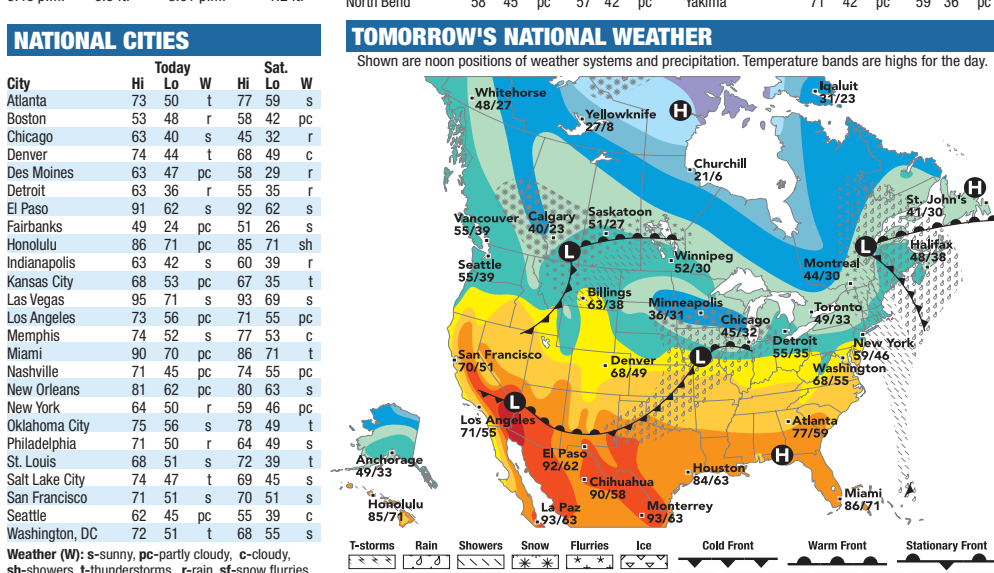
Anglers are allowed a daily bag limit of two hatchery salmon — Chinook or steelhead — per day. Of these, only one may be a Chinook.

Fish and wildlife commissions for the two states plan to hold a joint meeting on May 8 to review salmon run and harvest information. They will also consider adding spring Chinook fishing opportunities.



Category	Value
Temperatures	High/Low: 65°/37°
	Normal High/Low: 58°/42°
	Record High: 83° in 1941
	Record Low: 29° in 1955
Precipitation	Thursday: 0.00"
	Month to date: 5.27"
	Normal month to date: 4.50"
	Year to date: 20.32"
	Normal year to date: 29.34"
Sun and Moon	Sunset tonight: 8:17 p.m.
	Sunrise Saturday: 6:09 a.m.
	Moonrise today: 2:44 a.m.
	Moonset today: 11:57 a.m.

City	Today	Sat.	City	Today	Sat.
Baker City	65 33 pc 61 28 pc	Olympia	62 40 pc 57 33 c		
Bend	65 34 pc 61 23 pc	Pendleton	67 43 pc 57 36 pc		
Brookings	66 47 pc 66 45 s	Portland	67 45 pc 59 39 pc		
Eugene	68 41 pc 61 35 pc	Roseburg	72 44 pc 66 39 pc		
Ilwaco	55 46 pc 53 41 pc	Salem	67 43 pc 58 37 pc		
Klamath Falls	69 36 pc 68 29 s	Seaside	56 47 pc 54 40 sh		
Medford	75 44 pc 71 39 s	Spokane	61 39 sh 51 36 pc		
Newberg	66 41 pc 57 35 pc	Springfield	67 39 pc 61 33 pc		
Newport	55 44 pc 53 40 pc	Vancouver	66 44 pc 57 35 pc		
North Bend	58 45 pc 57 42 pc	Yakima	71 42 pc 59 36 pc		



Deborah Diane Kettle

Beaverton
Aug. 20, 1961 — April 19, 2019

Friends and family mourn the passing of Debbe Kettle on April 19 in Hillsboro.

Born Deborah Cintron in Washington, D.C., she spent her formative years in and around Kansas City, Missouri. She moved to Oregon in 1986, a place she would call home for the rest of her life.

She spent many years in Astoria, where she participated in local theater and ran a homeless shelter for families. She married and moved to Portland in 2000, where she worked her way through college, earning a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy, a master's degree in divinity and a Ph.D. in psychology.

She spent her final years pursuing her passion for helping others through private counseling.

In her spare time, she enjoyed decorating, cooking, movies and dotting on her basset hounds.

Debbe is survived by her husband, Pat; daughter, Caitlin; mother, Patricia; stepfather, Cliff; brother, Chris; and sister, Leslie.

She was loved. Please support your local mental health agencies. Too many people want and need help, yet are unable to get it.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives is entrusted with the arrangements.



Deborah Kettle

MEMORIAL

Wednesday, May 1

KEARNEY, Robert Paul "Bob" — Service at 11 a.m., Ocean View Cemetery Chapel, 575 S.W. 18th St. in Warrenton, immediately followed by final commitment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

LOTTERIES

Oregon	Washington
Thursday's Lucky Lines: 2-8-9-0-5 Thursday's Pick 4: 9-16-18-23-27-31 1 p.m.: 6-2-5-6 4 p.m.: 6-7-2-6 7 p.m.: 2-2-5-6 10 p.m.: 8-3-9-1	Thursday's Lucky Lines: 2-8-9-0-5 Thursday's Pick 4: 9-16-18-23-27-31 Estimated jackpot: \$30,000 Washington Thursday's Daily Game:

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