

Orchard to pay \$2.25M to ICE

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — An Eastern Washington apple company will pay \$2.25 million in civil penalties to the federal government for violations of a law requiring it to verify the eligibility of people to work in the United States, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Thursday.

Broetje Orchards LLC of Prescott, Washington, a major apple producer located east of the Tri-Cities, reached the settlement with ICE this week. The penalty amount is an ICE record for Washington state, the agency said.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it audited the company’s records last summer and found that nearly 950 of its employees over several years were suspected of not being authorized to work in the United States.

Under the settlement, Broetje Orchards did not admit to any criminal wrongdoing. But the company did acknowledge that it continued to employ unauthorized workers after being advised they did not have permission to work in the United States.

“We are pleased to put this process behind us and to get back to the business of growing fruit,” the company said in a press release.

“This case nevertheless highlights what is clearly a dysfunctional and broken immigration system,” the company said, and urged Congress to pass immigration reform.

“The agricultural labor shortage needs to be fixed, and now,” the company said. Washington is the nation’s largest apple-growing state, and the industry hires thousands of workers each year to harvest and process the fruit. A large number of the workers come from Mexico and are in the U.S. illegally.

The settlement called for Broetje to pay a lump sum to ICE. On paying the fine, Broetje will be fully released from any further civil or criminal liability in this case, ICE said.



Joshua Bessex/Daily Astorian via AP

A fake life-sized orca sits on the docks of Pier Two in Astoria on Thursday.

Fake orca hits snag

ASTORIA (AP) — A fake life-sized orca that spouts water and plays recordings of its real-life counterparts is being deployed to scare off hundreds of sea lions crowding docks off the Oregon coast, but it ran into a snag its first day on the job.

The orca was brought over land from Bellingham, Washington, on Thursday, but as soon as it hit the water at Astoria, its engine flooded, KGW-TV reported. Officials in Astoria say they have found a replacement motor and the fake orca will make it to the water near the docks within several hours.

The fake orca, named “Island,” belongs to a whale watching business and was originally built in the 1980s. It’s outfitted with a Suzuki eight-horsepower outboard motor and speakers.

The replica orca is actually a boat and will be driven around in the waters near Astoria, free of charge to the port. It will

also tow a smaller, 7-foot-long orca behind it.

Sea lions have become a nuisance to the city and commercial fishermen because they damage docks, prevent boaters from using them and eat too many salmon.

In recent weeks, the Port of Astoria tried creative ways to keep the animals away, including installing beach balls, colorful tape, chicken wire and electrified mats — but were not successful.

The sea lion population has increased dramatically in recent decades. The animals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, but the law includes provisions allowing for deterrence of the sea lions to protect private property.

Officials said it’s not known if the sea lions will actually be scared of the phony killer whale. Wildlife official say sea lions are smart and might figure out it’s a fake.

State shifts portfolio after PERS decision

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

The Oregon Investment Council moved Wednesday toward shifting a small share of Oregon’s public-pension investments from higher-yielding private equities into public securities.

The move is projected to generate up to \$3 billion less over 20 years for the Public Employees Retirement Fund, whose earnings account for 73 cents of every dollar paid out in pension benefits.

But by moving into securities, it also will allow for a better cash flow for the system to meet increased payments resulting from an April 30 decision of the Oregon Supreme Court. The court ruled that cost-of-living increases for public retirees cannot be reduced retroactively on benefits earned before May 2013.

After the Oregon Legislature made those

cost-saving reductions in 2013, the system was funded at 98 percent, according to Callan, the San Francisco firm that works with the Oregon Investment Council. The court’s decision will reduce that funding level to around 92 percent, still greater than comparable systems in many states.

Still, at a joint meeting of the council and the PERS board on May 29, members were told that the decision would increase the liability of the system over 20 years by \$5 billion. That gap has to be made up through greater investment earnings and higher contributions from the 925 government employers under PERS, which covers about 95 percent of Oregon’s public workforce.

“We got a pretty clear message from the PERS Board,” said Katy Durant of Portland, who leads the investment council.

The five members of the council set investment policies and the allocation of assets in Oregon’s portfolio.

BRIEFLY

Cougar spotted along creek in Grants Pass

GRANTS PASS (AP) — A young cougar was seen walking through residential areas of Grants Pass.

Police told the Grants Pass Daily Courier that they went looking for it Wednesday after a number of sightings were called in near Gilbert Creek, but couldn’t find it.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district biologist Mark Vargas says cougars prowl inside city limits in Josephine and Jackson counties more than people realize, regularly moving along creeks and wooded areas.

He says the department has no plans to try to tranquilize the cougar and relocate it, but if it keeps prowling around town, police may have to shoot it as a threat to public safety.

Last year, six cougars were killed in Josephine County, three by hunters, two for damage complaints and one for human safety.

Loggers to begin salvaging trees burned in fire

BEND (AP) — A logging company will soon salvage lumber that was burned in last year’s Baily Butte Fire at Ochoco National Forest.

The Bend Bulletin reports the logging contract amounts to more than \$323,000 and was awarded to international lumber provider Interfor in an expedited, emergency sale approved by the U.S. Forest Service.

Interfor U.S. operations manager Chuck Burley says the company plans to start logging as soon as possible, before the burned wood deteriorates and becomes less valuable.

Lookout Mountain District ranger Slater Turner says the company has been authorized to cut 2.9 million board feet of ponderosa pines, Douglas fir and white fir.

Replanting and restoration is also part of the project. The Baily Butte Fire was sparked by lightning on private land and burned over 7,700 acres.

Man arrested with 61 pounds of pot

LAVEVIEW (AP) — Oregon State Police say a Tennessee man carrying 61 pounds of marijuana in his car was arrested in southern Oregon.

KPTV-TV reports that a trooper stopped a 2005 Subaru Legacy on Highway 140 East near Lakeview at 11:14 a.m. Tuesday.

Police say the driver was failing to stay in his lane and was impeding traffic. A search of the vehicle found 31 individually sealed packages of marijuana in the trunk.

The man, from Cookeville, Tennessee, was arrested and booked into jail.

Bar complaint says district attorney violated ethics

THE DALLES (AP) — A northern Oregon county district attorney is denying allegations made in an ethics complaint accusing him of conflicts of interest, retaliation and soliciting sex from a county employee.

The Dalles Chronicle reports legal counsel for Wasco County filed the complaint with the state bar against District Attorney Eric Nisley last month.

Of the eight violations Nisley is accused of, four are related to an investigation into the head of a department in retaliation for her turning down his sexual advances.

He said the 2011 incident was a tasteless joke that he apologized for. “I did not commit a crime or violate an ethics rule,” he said.

He says the overbroad subpoena initially issued against the county as part of that investigation was never fulfilled. A narrower subpoena was filed, and Nisley says the investigation is ongoing.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2015, EO Media Group

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4 weeks	\$15.00	31 percent

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Single copy price:
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

ADVERTISING

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COMMERCIAL PRINTING

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Partly sunny

SATURDAY

Partly sunny and very warm

SUNDAY

Hot with sunshine

MONDAY

Very hot

TUESDAY

Hot with plenty of sunshine

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
85°	56°	89°	59°	95°
62°	97°	63°	95°	61°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
89°	55°	94°	59°	98°
64°	100°	64°	97°	62°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	74°	45°
Normals	75°	51°
Records	98° (1969)	35° (1991)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"	
Month to date	0.05"
Normal month to date	0.24"
Year to date	4.99"
Last year to date	6.47"
Normal year to date	6.75"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	79°	51°
Normals	77°	51°
Records	100° (1970)	40° (1980)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"	
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.11"
Year to date	3.14"
Last year to date	3.77"
Normal year to date	5.22"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:07 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:40 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:12 p.m.
Moonset today	8:20 a.m.

Last

New

First

Full

June 9

June 16

June 24

July 1

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds followed by some sun today, except partly sunny in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Times of clouds and sun today; pleasant and warmer in the south.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today, except low clouds followed by some sun at the coast.

Eastern Washington: Sunny in the south, the mountains and near the Idaho border today; sunny in the north, the Cascades and in central sections.

Cascades: Warmer today. Sunny; however, some clouds in the south; pleasant in central parts.

Northern California: Partly sunny today. Windy at the coast; a stray thunderstorm elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	68	53	pc	69	53	s
Baker City	76	48	pc	83	48	pc
Bend	76	45	pc	84	50	s
Brookings	70	55	pc	70	55	s
Burns	79	49	pc	82	51	pc
Enterprise	73	48	pc	79	48	pc
Eugene	83	54	s	90	56	s
Heppner	82	51	pc	87	53	s
Hermiston	89	55	pc	94	59	s
John Day	76	48	pc	83	51	pc
Klamath Falls	79	48	pc	82	49	pc
La Grande	77	50	pc	85	51	pc
Meacham	72	42	pc	77	43	pc
Medford	87	57	pc	95	60	pc
Newport	61	50	pc	62	51	s
North Bend	66	54	pc	66	54	s
Ontario	87	60	pc	87	60	pc
Pasco	90	54	pc	95	57	s
Pendleton	85	56	pc	89	59	pc
Portland	83	59	s	90	61	s
Redmond	78	45	pc	86	48	s
Salem	84	56	s	91	58	s
Spokane	81	57	pc	85	60	pc
Ukiah	76	45	pc	83	47	pc
Vancouver	82	57	s	90	59	s
Walla Walla	87	60	pc	91	63	s
Yakima	92	58	s	95	61	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	90	64	s	87	61	pc
Hong Kong	90	83	t	90	83	c
Jerusalem	80	55	s	84	59	s
London	73	49	t	65	47	s
Mexico City	75	58	t	74	58	t
Moscow	61	45	pc	64	47	pc
Paris	90	57	t	72	48	s
Rome	86	65	s	84	65	s
Seoul	75	57	c	82	60	s
Sydney	59	50	pc	65	50	s
Tokyo	76	62	pc	74	66	c

WINDS

	Today	Saturday
(in mph)		
Boardman	NNE 4-8	N 4-8
Pendleton	N 6-12	NNW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

2	5	7	7	5	2
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary:

Rain will diminish in the mid-Atlantic today. Showers and locally severe thunderstorms will extend from the central Plains to the Great Lakes. Storms are forecast to dot the Southwest and the Southeast.

Yesterday's National Extremes:

(for the 48 contiguous states)
High 102° in Presidio, Texas **Low 26°** in Bellemont, Ariz.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.				Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	83	62	t	85	62	pc	Louisville	83	66	c	82	66	pc
Atlanta	85	68	t	87	70	t	Memphis	88	71	pc	88	70	pc
Atlantic City	66	60	r	78	55	t	Miami	87	75	t	86	73	t
Baltimore	73	60	pc	81	61	t	Minneapolis	63	51	c	65	51	pc
Billings	73	56	t	73	54	pc	Nashville	77	58	pc	74	63	t
Birmingham	87	67	pc	88	68	pc	New Orleans	85	65	pc	84	63	pc
Boise	82	60	pc	83	59	pc	New York City	70	61	pc	79	57	pc
Boston	64	56	pc	68	50	t	Oklahoma City	89	66	pc	89	67	pc
Charleston, SC	83	68	pc	86	68	t	Omaha	82	67	t	82	70	t
Charleston, WV	84	62	pc	83	62	t	Philadelphia	74	60	pc	83	59	t
Chicago	65	52	c	70	55	pc	Phoenix	96	73	t	96	71	pc
Cleveland	80	58	t	69	55	pc	Portland, ME	63	49	pc	74	46	s
Dallas	90	67	s	93	68	s	Providence	69	54	c	75	50	pc
Denver	70	55	t	75	54	c	Raleigh	77	63	pc	83	64	t
Detroit	79	56	pc	72	53	pc	Rapid City	73	58	t	77	56	t
El Paso	94	73	pc	95	72	pc	reno	78	56	c	76	55	t
Fairbanks	65	46	sh	65	43	sh	Sacramento	87	59	t	84	59	t
Fargo	73	58	pc	70	57	t	St. Louis	83	65	t	82	70	pc
Honolulu	87	72	pc	87	72	pc	Salt Lake City	77	57	pc	72	55	t
Houston	91	69	pc	92	69	s	San Diego	69	59	pc	71	62	pc
Indianapolis	80	59	t	78	61	pc	San Francisco	66	56	pc	69	57	pc
Jacksonville	85	65	t	89	67	t	Seattle	77	54	s	83	57	pc
Kansas City	82	65	t	84	70	c	Tucson	93	70	t	96	66	pc
Las Vegas	88	63	pc	88	67	pc	Washington, DC	74	65	pc	82	66	t
Little Rock	89	72											