Fire destroys homes in Wenatchee

By NICHOLAS GERANIOS and DONNA BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press

Don Seabrook/The Wenatchee World via AP
U.S. Forest Service firefighters from Leavenworth cut brush Sunday near houses in northern Wenatchee, Wash. A wildfire fueled by high temperatures and strong winds roared into a central Washington neighborhood, destroying properties and forcing residents of several hundred homes to flee.

WENATCHEE, Wash. — From just across the Wenatchee River, Dominick Bonny watched a whole neighborhood in his central Washington town burn as a wildfire destroyed two dozen homes and forced hundreds to flee.

"With the wind blowing away from us, it was like we were watching a natural disaster within arm's reach," he said.

The wildfires hit parts of central and eastern Washington over the weekend as the state is struggling with a severe drought. Mountain snowpack is at extremely low levels, and about one-fifth of the state's rivers and streams are at record low levels.

Eastern Washington has been experiencing temperatures into the 100s, and last week Washington Gov. Jay Inslee issued an emergency proclamation that allows state resources to quickly be brought in to respond to wildfires.

Washington's struggles with wildfires come as Alaska, its fellow Pacific Northwest state, is facing more and harsher wildfires this year.

In Wenatchee, the wildfire fueled by high temperatures and strong winds roared into town Sunday afternoon. The blaze ignited in brush just outside Wenatchee, quickly burning out of control about 120 miles east of Seattle.

Rainfall on Monday provided relief, but hot, dry conditions and wind could challenge crews trying to get a handle on the flames that burned more than an estimated 4 square miles, officials said. Three firefighters suffered minor injuries, but no injuries to residents were reported.

Fire crews were concentrating on preventing any more homes from being burned Monday, State Patrol Trooper Brian Moore said. Crews were working to put out hot spots in already burned areas, while keeping an eye on winds that were expected to reach 15 to 20 mph Monday evening and could fan flames again.

Albert Rookard, who lives across the Wenatchee River from the blaze, stayed up late watching the fire, and he was shocked at how fast it grew.

Don Seabrook/The Wenatchee World via AP
A Chelan County Sheriff's deputy races to check that all residents have left their home as flames approach houses Sunday at Quail Hollow Lane in Wenatchee, Wash.

"From here, we could see embers just flying," Rookard said. "There was fire in so many places. We could see emergency vehicles flashing across town."

Evacuations were mainly in the north end of town and included a Wal-Mart store, the Chelan County Emergency Management office said. The store did not burn, but several commercial buildings were near the blaze, Washington State Patrol Trooper Darren Wright said.

Emergency management officials late Monday morning also briefly issued a shelter-in-place order after ammonia started leaking from a fruit warehouse. They later said it had dissipated and was no longer a threat.

The Blue Bird warehouse, which uses ammonia for cold-storage, was among a few commercial buildings to burn.

Bonny, who lives just outside Wenatchee, called the speed of the blaze "just mind-blowing."

"We're fine now," Bonny said. "Last night we watched the entire hill burn."

Phil Bentz, who lives on the same side of the river as the fire, said his home hadn't been evacuated. "We were waiting for someone to knock on the door, but they didn't come. So far, so good," Bentz said.

About noon Monday, fire trucks poured water on a burning warehouse in downtown Wenatchee, sending big black clouds into the air over the city. Farther north of town, scorched hillsides showed where the flames were stopped just short of irrigated apple orchards and residential subdivisions.

Officials know the fire started in brush on the edge of town, but they are still trying to determine what sparked it. Sweltering heat above 100 degrees, tinder-dry brush and strong winds helped fuel it.

Last month, Inslee declared a statewide drought emergency.

State Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark has banned all outdoor fires on state land protected by the Natural Resources department, and campfires have been banned at state parks and on state-controlled ocean beaches.

Railroad traffic in the area has been shut down, including freight lines and Amtrak's daily Chicago-to-Seattle route, BNSF Railway spokesman Gus Melonas said.

The railroad helped battle the blaze by spraying water from tank cars and transferring water to firefighting trucks, he said.

BRIEFLY

400,000 baby salmon die when intake plugs on Umpqua River

ROSEBURG (AP) — A plugged water intake at a southern Oregon fish hatchery has left 400,000 baby salmon dead.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says a fish carcass plugged an intake at the Rock Creek Hatchery on the North Umpqua River, causing water to drop in a raceway where fish were being raised for release next spring.

The department says an alarm was not triggered, and the problem was discovered within an hour, but it was too late to salvage any fish.

Hatchery director Dan Meyer says the carcass that plugged the intake may have gotten into a water line during a power outage last month.

The department says the losses will be primarily felt by Umpqua River anglers in 2018, when several thousand of those fish would have returned as adults.

Man who shot child through floor faces gun-dealing charges

MEDFORD (AP) — A southern Oregon man who killed a little girl in a burst of gunfire while using an assault-style rifle to get up from a couch now faces federal firearms charges alleging he lied on background checks to buy dozens of automatic handguns.

Court records say Jon A. Meyer of Grants Pass was in federal court in Medford last week on 10 counts alleging he conspired with two other people to buy 24 pistols. Two of them were recovered from crime scenes in Northern California.

Not guilty pleas were entered on his behalf and his trial is scheduled for September.

He is serving six years in prison for manslaughter in the 2013 death of 5-year-old Alysa Bobbitt in a Grants Pass apartment.

Fatal shooting by police outside Portland supermarket

PORTLAND (AP) — Police in Portland say a man in a grocery store parking lot brandished what appeared to be a gun and officers shot him to death. It turned out he had a starter's pistol.

Police say two officers approached the man and two other people Sunday night and talked with them for several minutes.

The officers said that without provocation, the man grabbed what looked like a gun out of a vehicle and pointed it in the direction of the officers and the two other people.

A police statement issued Monday said both officers fired.

It didn't say why the officers had approached him.

The man was identified as 29-year-old Alan Lee Bellew, from the Eugene-Springfield area.

Police said he was wanted for failing to appear on a heroin possession charge and for violating probation in a case of assault and resisting arrest.

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.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hot with blazing sunshine	Sunshine and very hot	Sunny; near-record temperatures	Partly sunny and very hot	Mostly sunny and very hot
	HOT	HOT	HOT	HOT
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
99° 62°	99° 63°	102° 68°	101° 67°	100° 66°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
101° 63°	101° 61°	105° 67°	105° 67°	102° 66°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	95°	74°
Normals	84°	55°
Records	102° (2008)	37° (1898)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	0.06"
Normal month to date	1.05"
Year to date	5.00"
Last year to date	7.49"
Normal year to date	7.56"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	94°	75°
Normals	84°	56°
Records	105° (2008)	44° (1964)

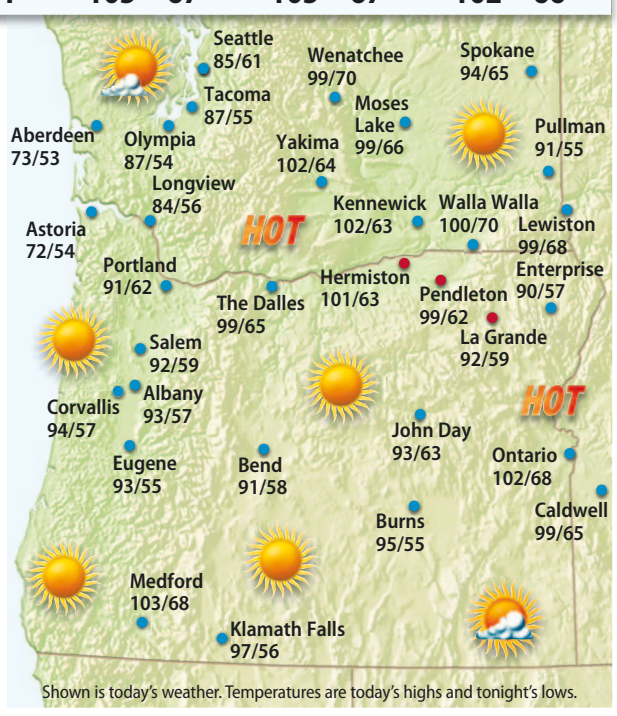
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"
Month to date	0.02"
Normal month to date	0.58"
Year to date	3.16"
Last year to date	4.19"
Normal year to date	5.69"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:48 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:24 p.m.
Moonset today	4:11 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
July 1	July 8	July 15	July 23



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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Sunny today; partly sunny and pleasant across the north. Pleasant in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Hot today with plenty of sunshine. Clear and moonlit tonight.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today. Clear and moonlit tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Sunshine today. A moonlit sky tonight. Sunny tomorrow.

Cascades: Very warm today with brilliant sunshine. A moonlit sky tonight.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today; an afternoon thunderstorm; however, dry at the coast.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	72	54	pc	77	55	s
Baker City	91	49	s	93	49	s
Bend	91	58	s	96	61	s
Brookings	73	58	s	73	58	s
Burns	95	55	s	99	59	s
Enterprise	90	57	s	92	56	s
Eugene	93	55	s	95	58	s
Heppner	95	56	s	95	55	s
Hermiston	101	63	s	101	61	s
John Day	93	63	s	96	63	s
Klamath Falls	97	56	s	98	59	s
La Grande	92	59	s	94	57	s
Meacham	87	46	s	88	45	s
Medford	103	68	s	107	72	s
Newport	63	50	s	64	51	s
North Bend	66	55	s	66	54	s
Ontario	102	68	s	102	67	s
Pasco	102	64	s	101	61	s
Pendleton	99	62	s	99	63	s
Portland	91	62	s	94	66	s
Redmond	95	54	s	99	57	s
Salem	92	59	s	96	62	s
Spokane	94	65	s	94	66	s
Ukiah	91	52	s	92	51	s
Vancouver	90	60	s	94	64	s
Walla Walla	100	70	s	100	69	s
Yakima	102	64	s	102	64	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	84	64	pc	90	64	s
Hong Kong	94	84	pc	95	84	c
Jerusalem	79	61	s	84	64	s
London	84	66	s	89	64	s
Mexico City	70	55	t	72	55	t
Moscow	70	57	c	75	57	pc
Paris	91	69	s	101	72	s
Rome	84	66	s	85	67	s
Seoul	82	67	pc	82	65	s
Sydney	64	46	pc	62	43	s
Tokyo	77	69	r	77	71	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 4-8	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	NNW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

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

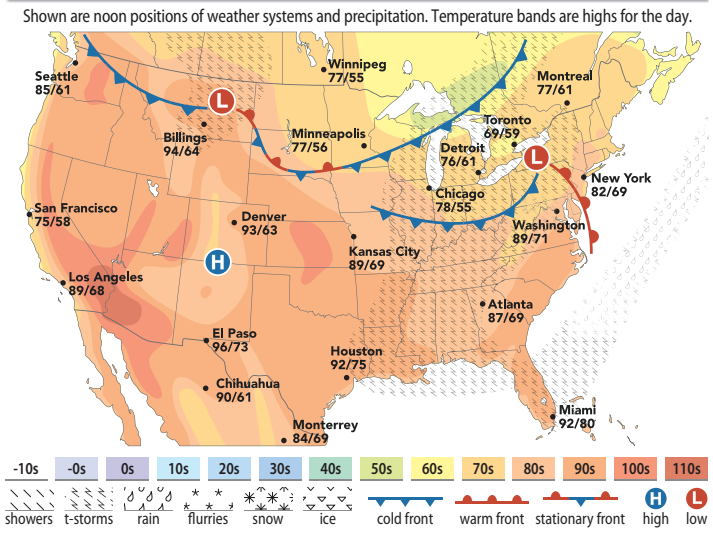
0-2, Low **3-5**, Moderate **6-7**, High; **8-10**, Very High; **11+**, Extreme

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

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2015

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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



National Summary: Drenching showers and locally gusty thunderstorms will frequent the eastern third of the nation today. Much of the Plains will be dry and warm. Extreme heat and only spotty storms are in store for the West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 113° in Needles, Calif. **Low** 40° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	92	69	pc	96	71	t
Atlanta	87	69	t	86	70	t
Atlantic City	80	71	pc	83	72	t
Baltimore	85	67	t	86	68	t
Billings	94	64	t	92	63	s
Birmingham	88	70	c	88	71	t
Boise	99	70	s	101	68	s
Boston	76	63	s	76	64	t
Charleston, SC	93	74	pc	91	74	t
Charleston, WV	82	64	pc	80	64	t
Chicago	78	55	t	69	54	pc
Cleveland	74	62	t	76	61	t
Dallas	97	77	pc	97	78	s
Denver	93	63	pc	88	61	t
Detroit	76	61	t	77	59	pc
El Paso	96	73	pc	100	75	t
Fairbanks	75	55	c	71	52	c
Fargo	79	59	c	76	59	t
Honolulu	91	75	pc	91	75	pc
Houston	92	75	t	94	77	t
Indianapolis	78	63	t	78	60	t
Jacksonville	90	72	t	90	72	t
Kansas City	89	69	s	86	65	t
Las Vegas	109	88	pc	109	88	t
Little Rock	94	74	pc	93	77	t
Los Angeles	89	68	pc	86	67	pc
Louisville	85	67	pc	79	67	t
Memphis	92	73	pc	89	75	t
Miami	92	80	t	91	79	t
Milwaukee	74	54	t	66	53	pc
Minneapolis	77	56	pc	77	58	pc
Nashville	87	67	pc	79	67	t
New Orleans	90	76	t	89	77	t
New York City	82	69	pc	82	70	t
Oklahoma City	97	74	s	96	71	s
Omaha	87	65	pc	82	63	s
Philadelphia	86	70	t	86	71	t
Phoenix	110	89	pc	109	88	t
Portland, ME	74	57	pc	68	60	t
Providence	81	64	s	79	66	t
Raleigh	92	69	pc	90	69	pc
Rapid City	88	63	pc	85	60	s
Reno	99	69	pc	101	71	pc
Sacramento	106	69	pc	106	69	pc
St. Louis	88	69	t	79	68	t
Salt Lake City	99	74	pc	98	72	pc
San Diego	79	70	pc	80	70	pc
San Francisco	75	58	pc	78	59	pc
Seattle	85	61	s	88	62	s
Tucson	101	77	pc	100	75	t
Washington, DC	89	71	t	88	73	t
Wichita	100	78	s	99	72	t

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.