

One woman killed by fallen tree

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Torrential rains pummeled parts of the Pacific Northwest early Wednesday, causing mudslides and flooding roads, leaving an Oregon woman dead after a tree fell onto her house and sweeping seven people into a Washington river, where they were rescued.

A large Douglas fir tree crashed into a Portland home early Wednesday, killing a 60-year-old woman who was in bed.

The tree, roughly 30 inches in diameter, was uprooted and sliced through the front corner of the house from the back at about 3:30 a.m., pinning the woman underneath. Lt. Rich Tyler of the Portland Fire Bureau said the woman's brother and husband escaped without injury.

"The rooms they were in were not affected by the tree at all, but they had to get by the tree to get out," Tyler said.

Next door neighbor Sam Choumxy, whose bedroom window faces the woman's home, said he was woken up by the storm. He said he watched in horror as the tree fell onto his neighbor's house with a thud. The tree top slammed into two cars in Choumxy's driveway.

Choumxy said he ran outside, made it around the tree, and raced to his neighbors' front door.

"Is anybody hurt? Is anybody hurt? I just kept calling to them," he said.

More than 5 inches of rain have fallen on Portland since Sunday, and strong winds have uprooted trees from the saturated ground. At Sea-Tac Airport, where the official weather for Seattle is recorded, the weather service says 2.13 inches of rain fell Tuesday. That beats the previous Dec. 8 record of 1.61 inches.

In western Washington, seven people were swept into the Puyallup River from



AP Photo/Steve Dipaola

A large fir tree fell on a house overnight and killed a 60-year-old woman in Portland Wednesday. More than 5 inches of rain have fallen on Portland since Sunday, and strong winds have uprooted trees.

a riverbank homeless camp Wednesday morning.

Someone called 911 around 6:30 a.m. to report that people were in the river up to their waists and chests beneath the State Route 512 overpass. The News Tribune newspaper reported (<http://is.gd/7Wk7jd>).

All were pulled out of the river by Central Pierce Fire & Rescue by 8 a.m.

Nearby, a small RV park was evacuated Wednesday morning as floodwaters stranded several vehicles.

Firefighters went vehicle-to-vehicle to check on occupants and some people were evacuated by boat. The camp was a temporary home for several dozen RVs and camper-trailers.

The owner of the RV park, Kevin McLeod, hooked up a pump to try to remove the water.

To the north, in Fall City, resident Eric West said flooding is typical for the

Snoqualmie Valley, but this year seems to be a little worse, with three or four floods.

"Times are changing," West said. "Through the summer, we had the driest summer on record and now we're making up for all the rain we missed in the summer time."

The Red Cross opened four shelters Tuesday in Oregon and Washington and is supporting a fifth one.

Meanwhile, the storm has led to power outages and closed schools.

Puget Sound Energy in Washington reported more than 70,000 power outages early Wednesday. Portland General Electric said crews are trying to restore power to 26,000 customers. Several Washington state school districts either closed or had late starts Wednesday.

The National Weather Service says wind and rain are expected to slow Wednesday, but snow may continue to fall in the mountains.

Many creeks and rivers were pushed to flood stage as residents in some communities stacked sandbags.

Andy Haner, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Seattle, said every major river in western Washington has reached or will reach a minor flood stage over the next few days.

"This is a pretty significant flood event," he said, due to what the service is calling a parade of storms.

Major flooding was predicted for the Snoqualmie, Snohomish and Skykomish rivers north of Seattle, Haner said. In south central Washington, transportation officials closed a 45-mile stretch of U.S. Route 12 after rains washed out a portion of the road west of White Pass.

Firefighters in the Portland suburb of Forest Grove rescued a motorist by boat early Wednesday after she was trapped by flooding.

Man living in Iraq wins \$6.4M Oregon jackpot

PORTLAND (AP) — An Oregon Lottery winner took more than three months to claim his \$6.4 million Megabucks jackpot.

But the lucky man had good reason for being late — he lives in Iraq.

The man cashed in Dec. 1 at lottery headquarters in Salem, said Chuck Baumann, the Oregon Lottery spokesman. He elected to take his millions in 25 annual installments of \$256,000 minus taxes.

Though the Lottery generally prohibits winners from remaining anonymous, officials have honored the man's request to keep his identity secret. Baumann said it's because the winner is concerned about his safety back home.

"He made it very clear that the amount of money he had won here would certainly put him and his family in harm's way," Baumann said.

The winner bought the ticket for the Aug. 24 drawing through an online lottery agent based overseas.

Baumann said it's his educated guess that the agent has people deployed across the world to go into retailers and buy lottery tickets. He said its employee for Oregon must be in Bend, where the ticket was purchased.

The winning numbers were: 15, 27, 32, 39, 44 and 45. Baumann said he asked the man how he chose them. The man's English, though not bad, wasn't great, and he didn't provide a clear-cut answer.

"He covered his eyes with his arm, and then poked at numbers in the air," Baumann recalled.

Though the man bought his ticket via the Internet, he had the actual ticket when he arrived in Salem.

The man, whose win was first reported by *Willamette Week*, is believed to be the first person from outside the U.S. to win the Oregon Megabucks jackpot. Baumann said the Lottery has no restrictions on foreigners winning prizes or buying tickets through an online agent.

Lawyers: Process to contest no-fly list is still inadequate

PORTLAND (AP) — Lawyers for six people barred from flying in the U.S. say the federal government hasn't sufficiently improved the process for challenging their placement on the no-fly list.

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union made their case to a federal judge in Portland on Wednesday.

The judge ruled last year that the government offers no adequate method for people to contest the

travel ban. In response, the Department of Homeland Security created an appeals process. The department also began acknowledging that people were on the list and, when possible, providing information justifying their placement.

The ACLU says the new rules don't give people enough information to offer a reasonable defense.

Lawyers for the government say the rules comply with last year's court order and are necessary to protect national security.



AP Photo/Steve Dipaola

Fire and maintenance personnel look at a large sinkhole on Kane Drive in Gresham Wednesday.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with a little rain

FRIDAY

Periods of sun with a shower

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with a bit of rain

SUNDAY

Rain and drizzle in the morning

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
52°	35°	48°	38°	42°
48°	38°	48°	42°	45°
35°	45°	35°	42°	28°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
53°	35°	48°	38°	42°
48°	38°	47°	42°	48°
36°	45°	36°	45°	27°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	62°	49°
Normals	40°	27°
Records	65° (1933)	-9° (1972)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.06"
Month to date 1.26"
Normal month to date 0.41"
Year to date 9.07"
Last year to date 11.02"
Normal year to date 11.88"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	51°
Normals	40°	28°
Records	67° (1988)	-10° (1932)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.12"
Month to date 0.78"
Normal month to date 0.48"
Year to date 6.17"
Last year to date 6.56"
Normal year to date 8.95"

SUN AND MOON

	7:24 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.
Sunrise today	7:24 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.
Sunset tonight	4:11 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.
Moonset today	4:12 p.m.	6:22 a.m.	6:22 a.m.	4:12 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1	

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

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	53	44	r	53	43	sh
Baker City	45	28	sn	39	29	sf
Bend	43	32	r	40	31	c
Brookings	52	45	r	51	47	r
Burns	42	25	sf	38	22	sn
Enterprise	42	23	sn	38	27	sn
Eugene	52	42	r	50	41	r
Heppner	49	34	r	45	34	pc
Hermiston	53	35	c	48	38	pc
John Day	47	33	r	43	34	c
Klamath Falls	43	30	r	40	30	sf
La Grande	46	31	sn	43	33	c
Meacham	44	31	sn	40	32	c
Medford	50	38	r	48	39	r
Newport	51	44	r	51	44	r
North Bend	54	45	r	54	46	r
Ontario	52	36	r	47	32	c
Pasco	52	36	c	48	35	pc
Pendleton	52	35	r	48	38	pc
Portland	52	43	r	49	41	sh
Redmond	48	32	r	44	32	pc
Salem	51	43	r	51	42	r
Spokane	43	31	r	40	30	sh
Ukiah	44	31	sn	42	32	pc
Vancouver	51	44	r	48	42	sh
Walla Walla	52	39	r	47	37	pc
Yakima	49	30	c	42	30	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	46	23	s	42	22	s
Hong Kong	71	62	s	71	67	s
Jerusalem	57	39	s	56	40	s
London	54	45	r	50	42	pc
Mexico City	71	42	pc	73	49	pc
Moscow	37	31	c	34	29	pc
Paris	44	37	pc	51	45	sh
Rome	59	39	s	58	39	pc
Seoul	50	36	r	50	30	s
Sydney	78	69	t	94	63	pc
Tokyo	60	57	c	69	50	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	WSW 7-14	SSE 3-6
Pendleton	WSW 10-20	SSW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

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: Showers will linger over South Florida, as rain dots the Great Lakes and patchy fog hovers in parts of the Ohio Valley and Northeast today. Drenching rain and mountain snow will expand along the West Coast.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Opa Locka, Fla. Low 12° in Gunnison, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	62	39	pc	61	36	pc
Atlanta	70	53	pc	72	56	pc
Atlanta City	59	46	pc	61	48	pc
Baltimore	61	40	pc	63	42	pc
Billings	44	31	c	45	25	pc
Birmingham	71	55	pc	73	59	pc
Boise	49	36	r	44	33	c
Boston	57	46	c	60	45	pc
Charleston, SC	71	50	pc	75	52	s
Charleston, WV	62	46	pc	64	53	c
Chicago	56	38	pc	63	44	c
Cleveland	55	46	pc	58	49	pc
Dallas	75	53	pc	80	67	s
Denver	65	40	pc	52	27	c
Detroit	56	44	pc	54	44	pc
El Paso	72	43	s	74	48	s
Fairbanks	-13	-20	pc	-5	-13	c
Fargo	43	26	sn	36	26	sf
Honolulu	84	73	pc	85	72	pc
Houston	78	65	pc	80	67	pc
Indianapolis	59	46	pc	59	56	c
Jacksonville	74	48	pc	76	51	pc
Kansas City	63	41	pc	65	43	pc
Las Vegas	73	52	pc	58	41	sh
Little Rock	70	57	pc	76	64	pc
Los Angeles	69	55	pc	66	50	pc
Louisville	62	49	pc	66	60	pc
Memphis	68	58	pc	76	65	pc
Miami	80	67	c	80	71	pc
Minneapolis	54	37	pc	50	42	c
Minneapolis	47	31	sh	42	33	c