

Hanford to become tourist destination

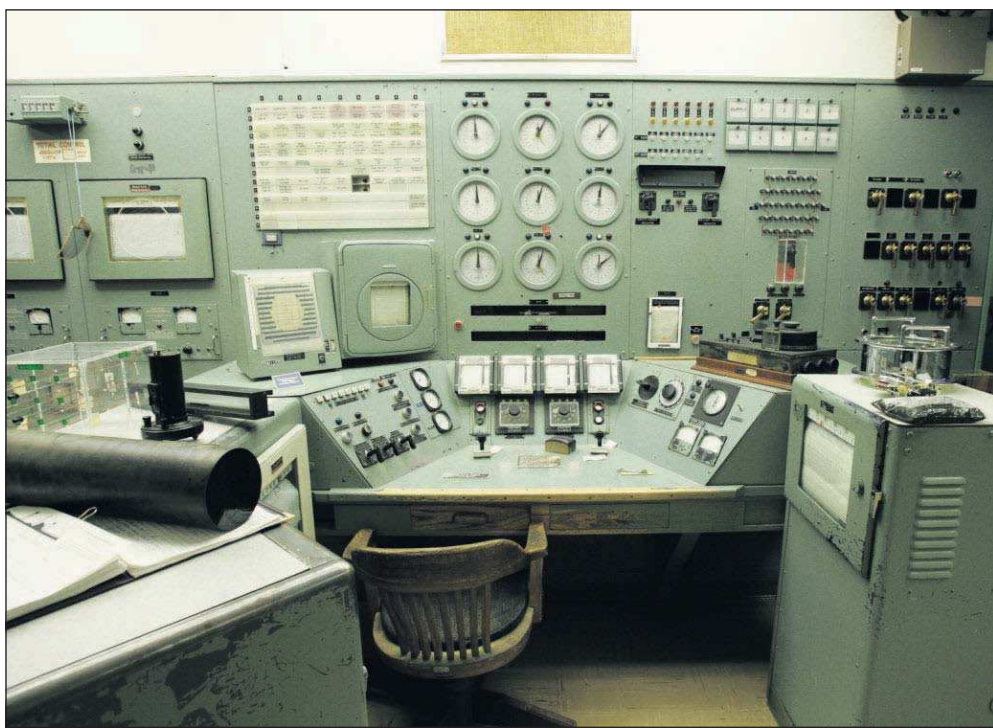
SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The nation's most polluted nuclear weapons production site is now its newest national park.

Thousands of people are expected next year to tour the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, home of the world's first full-sized nuclear reactor, near Richland, about 200 miles east of Seattle in south-central Washington.

They won't be allowed anywhere near the nation's largest collection of toxic radioactive waste.

At Hanford, the main attractions will be B Reactor — the world's first full-sized reactor — along with the ghost towns of Hanford and White Bluffs, which were evacuated by the government to make room for the Manhattan Project.

The Manhattan Project is the name for the U.S. effort to build an atomic bomb during World War II.



In this 2008 file photo, the control panel for Hanford nuclear reservation's famous B Reactor is shown in Richland, Wash. The B Reactor, the world's first full-sized reactor, will be part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, the nation's newest national park.

Federal judge rejects some wolf kills in Washington

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A federal judge has rejected plans by a federal agency to assist in the killing of problem wolves in Washington state.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Bryan of Tacoma, Washington, issued a summary judgment last Thursday against the low-profile agency, known as Wildlife Services.

Bryan said the agency should have prepared a more in-depth environmental analysis of its agreement with the state of Washington to help kill problem wolves.

Bryan ruled in favor of conservation groups that sued the agency, concluding that an environmental assessment prepared by the agency was flawed.

Wolves were hunted to extinction in Washington at the turn of the last century. But they started migrating from neighboring areas in the early 2000s and there are an estimated 16 wolf packs containing 68 wolves in the state, all in eastern Washington.

Wildlife Services failed to create a full environmental impact statement about the proposal to reduce wolf conflicts in the state, Bryan ruled.

Wildlife Services is a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that is responsible for controlling the number of wolves, grizzly bears, coyotes and other wild animals. Officials at the agency didn't have a response on the ruling.

Environmental groups cheered the ruling.

"It is long past time that we base wildlife management decisions on the best available science, not on antiquated, anti-wolf rhetoric and myth," said Bethany Cotton of WildEarth Guardians.

Environmental groups contend the environmental assessment failed to address the full ecological impacts of killing wolves in Washington, including impacts on wolves in neighboring states and on other animals, such as grizzly bears and Canada lynx.

Wildlife Services has been involved in the killing of wolves in Washington in the past.

In August 2014, Wildlife Services snipers shot from a helicopter and killed the Huckleberry wolf pack's alpha female. The death of that pack's breeding female threatened the future of the entire pack, environmental groups contended.

Wildlife Services also advised the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 2012 destruction of the Wedge wolf pack in Eastern Washington. In that case, the state agency killed seven wolves after they preyed on livestock.

At the federal level, the state is split into two separate wolf populations. In the eastern third of the state, wolves are considered part of the large Northern Rocky Mountain population, which was removed from the endangered list in 2011. But in the western two-thirds of the state, wolves are considered part of the Pacific Northwest population, which is much smaller and still listed as endangered.

Oregon 'motor voter' system set to launch

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon is on track to launch its automatic voter registration system in January, Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins said Monday.

Under the new law, people who are eligible to vote will be registered after they obtain or renew their driver's licenses, permits or identification cards. Oregon is the first state to enact an automatic voter registration law, and the legislation was a top priority for Gov. Kate Brown dating back to when she was secretary of state.

Atkins said during a press briefing Monday that people outside of Oregon are watching to see how the new system unfolds.

"We'll probably see the nation paying attention, in addition to Oregonians paying attention," Atkins said. "We've been very pleased with the work that's been done so far and our ability to run end to end tests here in December."

State officials expect the new system will add approximately 10,000 voters to the rolls each month starting in January. The secretary of state

will also use Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division data to register people who obtained or renewed their driver's licenses, permits or identification cards over the last two years, agency spokeswoman Molly Woon wrote in an email. This provision could add as many as 275,000 voters to the rolls, Atkins said. However, the state will not implement that portion of the law until after the May primary.

It's less clear how many people will opt out of voter registration.

The DMV will only send data to the Elections Division for people who have demonstrated, through documents shared with the DMV, that they are eligible to vote. This means Oregon residents who are U.S. Citizens and at least 17 years old. The Elections Division will send mailers to people identified as eligible, giving them 21 days to opt out of registration or to register with a political party. If people do nothing, the state will register them as unaffiliated voters.

Once a citizen opts out of automatic voter registration, the Elections Division will

not contact the person in the future when he or she renews a drivers license or updates an address at the DMV. The other voter registration options will still be available, including registering to vote online and at the DMV.

"How many people will say 'no thank you' is a little bit of an unknown," Atkins said.

People exempt from the automatic registration process include certain law enforcement and other individuals who have signed up through the state to keep their addresses confidential for personal safety reasons, according to the state's new voter registration manual.

The law goes into effect Jan. 1, when the DMV will be closed for the holiday. As a result, the first people to be affected by the law will those who obtain driver's licenses or update their addresses Jan. 4. These people will begin to receive mailers from the state sometime after Jan. 5, when state elections workers will begin to send out the materials.

The new law also affects people who update their addresses through the DMV, although they will not be

registered to vote. Instead, the Elections Division will send the updated addresses to county clerks so they can update the information of existing registered voters.

Shamus Hannan, an application development manager in the Secretary of State's office who has overseen the project, said the state did not create it from scratch. Instead, the automatic registration program built upon Oregon's existing system of data sharing between the DMV and the Elections Division which the state uses for functions including online voter registration. The program is expected to cost approximately \$753,000 during the current two-year budget, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office.

It's "a variation on a theme, rather than something completely new for us," Hannan said. "Currently, we are in final testing of the application with our partners from all the other agencies, including the counties."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

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
A rain or snow shower in spots	A rain or snow shower early	Cloudy	Mostly cloudy and chilly	Mostly cloudy and cold

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
43° 31°	41° 29°
36° 23°	34° 16°
28° 20°	

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
45° 34°	44° 29°
39° 25°	37° 21°
31° 23°	

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	52°	35°
Normals	39°	25°
Records	68° (1933)	-16° (1990)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.13"
Month to date 2.03"
Normal month to date 1.04"
Year to date 9.84"
Last year to date 12.33"
Normal year to date 12.51"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	52°	33°
Normals	38°	27°
Records	70° (1933)	-12° (1990)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.15"
Month to date 1.50"
Normal month to date 1.03"
Year to date 6.89"
Last year to date 7.00"
Normal year to date 9.50"

SUN AND MOON

	Full	Last	New	First
Dec 25	Jan 1	Jan 9	Jan 16	

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: A shower this morning, then afternoon rain; breezy in the south.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; a flurry in the north, near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: Cloudy today with snow becoming steadier, accumulating 2-4 inches.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy, a shower this morning, then rain. Occasional rain tonight.

Northern California: A little rain today; snow, accumulating 1-3 inches in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	41	r	47	38	r
Baker City	32	21	sn	32	18	sn
Bend	38	28	c	34	19	sf
Brookings	50	41	r	46	37	r
Burns	33	24	sn	29	18	sf
Enterprise	32	20	c	30	17	sn
Eugene	48	37	r	45	34	r
Heppner	40	30	c	39	25	sn
Hermiston	45	34	c	44	29	sf
John Day	38	30	c	35	25	sf
Klamath Falls	39	24	sn	34	23	sf
La Grande	39	26	c	36	24	sn
Meacham	35	26	c	34	23	sn
Medford	47	37	r	44	33	r
Newport	48	40	r	47	37	r
North Bend	51	41	r	50	38	r
Ontario	36	27	c	36	25	sn
Pasco	44	31	c	43	28	c
Pendleton	43	31	c	41	29	sn
Portland	47	37	r	46	36	r
Redmond	39	28	r	38	22	sf
Salem	48	38	r	46	35	r
Spokane	31	22	c	33	25	sf
Ukiah	35	25	sn	34	21	sn
Vancouver	45	39	r	44	36	r
Walla Walla	43	31	c	42	27	sf
Yakima	38	24	c	39	19	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	20	s	43	17	pc
Hong Kong	72	68	c	74	67	pc
Jerusalem	57	38	s	55	37	pc
London	59	46	sh	52	47	pc
Mexico City	74	47	pc	73	42	pc
Moscow	43	38	r	42	38	c
Paris	56	50	pc	55	45	sh
Rome	60	40	s	59	42	pc
Seoul	44	28	s	48	25	c
Sydney	70	66	r	75	66	sh
Tokyo	58	43	pc	51	47	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	SW 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 0 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.

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: Areas of rain, drizzle and fog will slow travel from the Gulf Coast to New England today. Locally gusty storms will fire near the Gulf. Coastal rain with locally heavy mountain snow will expand in the West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 87° in Naples, Fla. Low -3° in Boulder, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	49	35	sh	48	28	s
Atlanta	70	63	r	71	66	r
Atlanta City	61	54	sh	63	60	r
Baltimore	64	49	sh	66	61	r
Billings	36	13	sf	27	15	c
Birmingham	71	63	r	74	66	r
Boise	39	26	c	36	27	sn
Boston	56	45	sh	56	51	r
Charleston, SC	75	64	r	78	65	r
Charleston, WV	66	53	r	69	65	r
Chicago	45	39	sf	58	36	r
Cleveland	55	42	c	64	56	r
Dallas	74	60	pc	72	50	s
Denver	43	21	c	36	18	sf
Detroit	50	39	pc	62	48	c
El Paso	65	46	pc	64	44	s
Fairbanks	-6	-16	pc	-11	-25	pc
Fargo	36	24	sn	27	15	sf
Honolulu	83	74	pc	83	72	pc
Houston	76	64	r	78	55	c
Indianapolis	51	48	pc	64	48	r
Jacksonville	78	65	c	82	66	c
Kansas City	56	47	pc	53	33	sh
Las Vegas	62	43	pc	59	38	pc
Little Rock	67	58	pc	74	50	t
Los Angeles	65	51	sh	68	45	pc
Louisville	64	56	c	70	59	pc
Memphis	72	63	c	75	56	t
Miami	83	75	c	83	75	pc
Millwaukee	43	38	c	55	34	r
Minneapolis	38	32	c	38	25	c
Nashville	69	61	c	73	60	r
New Orleans	73	63	r	77	69	r
New York City	61	52	c	63	62	r
Oklahoma City	67	47	pc	63	36	s
Omaha	50	35	pc	44	26	c
Philadelphia	63	53	c	66	64	r
Phoenix	58	51	pc	65	52	pc
Portland, ME	45	34	r	48	42	pc
Providence	59	45	sh	60	53	r
Raleigh	69	60	r	73	67	r
Rapid City	44	15	pc	32	12	c
Reno	53	31	c	44	28	c
Sacramento	64	43	r	57	42	c
St. Louis	65	50	pc	67	42	r
Salt Lake City	39	28	sn	35	18	sf
San Diego	66	59	sh	65	55	pc
San Francisco	59	48	c	55	46	pc
Seattle	45	38	r	46	36	r
Tucson	63	49	pc	66	48	pc
Washington, DC	62	54	c	67	64	r
Wichita	60	44	pc	55	32	s

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