

Cameras change fight against wildfires

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A growing network of cameras trained on the forested mountains around Lake Tahoe is changing the way crews fight Western wildfires by allowing early detection that triggers quicker, cheaper, more tactical suppression than traditional war-like operations, experts said Wednesday.

The high-definition cameras can be operated remotely to pan, tilt and zoom in the search for the first wisps of smoke in remote areas, said Graham Kent, director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory.

Equipped with real-time and time-lapse imagery, the cameras piggyback on an existing, high-speed network that detects earthquakes, Kent told the annual meeting of the Seismological Society of America in Reno.

Last summer, a half-dozen of the hazard cameras at Tahoe were credited with the discovery of six fires and provided early intelligence on more than 25, Kent said.

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— **Graham Kent**, director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory

a special forces situation,” Kent said. “Firefighting is going to become much more tactical.”

He said more cameras are being installed across much of northern Nevada and close to the Utah border in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He’s currently working with firefighters in Oregon, Idaho and Montana to develop similar networks.

Frank Vernon, a research geophysicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, began developing the “virtual fire lookout towers” in 2002 when he and others built a large-scale, wireless network in Southern California.

It now includes more than 64 fixed mountaintop cameras in 16 remote locations across San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties.

“Working with partners to provide this technology to the community is vitally important as extreme drought conditions, warmer weather and more frequent Santa Ana wind events have all contributed to increased wildfire activity and longer fire seasons each year in Southern California,” Vernon said.

The multi-hazard function of the cameras is especially valuable to communities such as Lake Tahoe and Reno that border wildlands.

“The big three for us are floods, fires and earthquakes,” said Kyle West, safety and training manager in Reno. The city is located in Washoe County, where officials recently updated their hazard mitigation plan.

Kent said officials hope to have more than 20 of the cameras up and operating by the end of this year.

“The notion of fire cameras has been out there for 20 years. But they were mostly closed circuit, analogue systems with poor resolution,” Kent said.

The video feeds are available to state, local and federal firefighters and can be viewed by the public on the AlertTahoe Web site.

University of Nevada, Reno scientists are working on technology to use “machine vision — to teach computers to spot the fires without humans,” Kent said.

“We’re sort of crowd-sourcing lookout towers,” he said. “Anybody in this room, if they are feeling anxious or just have a premonition, they can go onto AlertTahoe, right click on the camera pane and see the time lapse. We could have hundreds of people searching for fires at any one time — people who are just basically concerned.”

Kent said the video feeds help fire managers make more efficient decisions deploying resources during the early stages of attack after a lightning strike is reported.

“In the old days, you would send a spotter plane at great expense, or you would guess and send too few or too many people,” he said.

BRIEFLY

Coquille tribe calls ‘Lewis and Clark’ lottery ads offensive

NORTH BEND (AP) — The Coquille Indian Tribe is calling for a state lottery campaign to be changed, calling it insensitive to indigenous people.

The Coos Bay World reports that Coquille chairwoman Brenda Meade sent a letter to Oregon Lottery Director Jack Roberts Wednesday calling for the end of a “Lewis and Clark” advertising campaign, which depicts Lewis and Clark discovering “native” lottery terminals.

There are no native people depicted in the ads, which Meade says makes the fictional Oregon appear as a land “ripe for economic exploitation” without competition from indigenous people. She says the ads are supposed to be funny, but highlight that Oregon’s politicians don’t want to share wealth with tribes.

Meade’s grievances come days after Gov. Kate Brown opposed a Coquille casino over concerns about the proliferation of gambling in the state.

One dead, two injured in small plane crash in Woodland

WOODLAND, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say one person was killed and two were injured after a small plane ran off the runway at an airport in Woodland.

The Columbian reports emergency personnel were called to the scene at about 3 p.m. Thursday for a single engine plane that had driven off the end of the runway, through a fence and up an embankment.

Three people were taken to a nearby hospital. Woodland Mayor Will Finn told to the newspaper that one person was killed.

Authorities say the plane, a Mooney M20K, is registered to a corporation in Woodinville and was bound for Renton.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer says the plane crashed under unknown circumstances. Both the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Woodland is about 30 miles north of Portland.

Umpqua Hot Springs reopen after E. coli scare in September

ROSEBURG (AP) — A popular hot springs in southern Oregon have reopened after high levels of E. coli were found in September, forcing a closure.

The News-Review reports that the Umpqua Hot Springs will be available to visitors from sunup to sundown as of Tuesday.

Federal forest officials revealed in September that high amounts of human waste had caused a bloom of E. coli prompting a closure until June 30, 2016, or until the bacterial levels dropped to safe levels.

In a statement Wednesday, the forest service said police have issued more and more tickets in the past three years to people nearby for illegal drug use, domestic violence, campfire violations, cutting down trees and more, which in addition to the bacteria prompted the new time restrictions at the springs.

OHSU plans rural health center in Klamath Falls

By COURTNEY ANDERSON
Herald and News

KLAMATH FALLS — Sky Lakes Medical Center and Oregon Health & Science University announced a partnership to launch a \$50 million project for a new clinical and education building.

The facility will host clinical care, provide training to students in OHSU’s Family Practice Residency Program and be the academic center for OHSU’s Campus for Rural Health.

President of OHSU Joe Robertson said the collaboration formed last fall, but Wednesday marks the announcement of the new building plans and fundraising campaign to make program goals a reality.

“We envision a building that will be a place for primary care to be delivered in an educational setting,” Sky Lakes CEO Paul Stewart said, “where a variety of health care providers will participate in the clinical care while they are participating in their educational training program.”

The new building, to be located on the west side of the Sky Lakes campus, will also consolidate Sky Lakes’ clinics around Klamath Falls.

“We have been opening primary care clinics but they are kind of scattered and diffused, and implementing transformational changes in how care’s delivered became more difficult and complex when it’s in small clinics scattered all over.”

Stewart said. “So we had the idea that it would be great to consolidate some of our primary care in close proximity to the residency clinic.”

Sky Lakes, OHSU and Oregon Institute of Technology Foundation have formed an organization for fundraising the project. The three foundations are working together to reach \$50 million and begin breaking ground to build the 88,000-square-foot building by 2018.

Sky Lakes has pledged \$15 million to kick-start the fundraising campaign. OHSU has also committed at least \$5 million.

Oregon Institute of Technology Foundation is part of the organization for fundraising on the project.

OIT may also be part of the education component of the project, but there’s nothing formal yet.

Stewart said he hopes the partnership will be the springboard to create new programs, for example adding a doctorate in physical-therapy degree with OHSU and OIT as partners.

He said adding more programs can lead to more jobs in the community.

“Not just jobs directly but more intellectual stimulation in our community. OIT is a great asset and OHSU is a great partner. Overall, I think this is going to make our community more attractive and easier to attract other businesses, students and others to come to our community,” Stewart said.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

A t-storm in spots in the p.m.

SATURDAY

Some sun, a shower, not as warm

SUNDAY

Variably cloudy with a shower

MONDAY

Cloudy

TUESDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
73°	48°	66°	47°	62°	40°
60°	41°	62°	39°		
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
74°	51°	70°	49°	66°	43°
66°	44°	68°	38°		

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	76°	49°
Normals	64°	40°
Records	92° (1934)	26° (1951)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.21"
Normal month to date 0.83"
Year to date 4.20"
Last year to date 3.01"
Normal year to date 4.83"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	76°	48°
Normals	66°	40°
Records	92° (1934)	20° (1951)

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

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	61	49	sh	58	45	sh
Baker City	69	40	pc	61	33	pc
Bend	56	34	c	57	34	pc
Brookings	57	48	r	56	46	sh
Burns	58	36	pc	60	34	pc
Enterprise	66	40	pc	50	37	c
Eugene	62	47	sh	59	45	c
Heppner	68	45	c	61	41	pc
Hermiston	74	51	c	70	49	pc
John Day	66	42	pc	62	42	pc
Klamath Falls	52	32	r	56	34	pc
La Grande	69	45	pc	59	40	c
Meacham	68	41	c	56	40	c
Medford	61	44	r	63	44	c
Newport	58	49	sh	56	44	c
North Bend	60	51	sh	58	47	sh
Ontario	72	47	pc	68	41	pc
Pasco	75	50	c	73	46	pc
Pendleton	73	48	c	66	47	pc
Portland	64	50	sh	61	47	sh
Redmond	59	32	c	60	34	pc
Salem	63	48	sh	60	46	c
Spokane	71	47	c	61	43	c
Ukiah	65	40	c	56	37	pc
Vancouver	62	50	sh	60	47	sh
Walla Walla	71	49	c	64	48	pc
Yakima	73	46	c	71	43	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	77	48	s	73	46	pc
Hong Kong	85	77	sh	84	74	c
Jerusalem	82	62	s	82	60	c
London	53	40	r	52	37	sh
Mexico City	73	50	t	73	52	t
Moscow	48	35	r	50	30	sh
Paris	63	46	c	52	35	pc
Rome	67	53	t	65	54	t
Seoul	66	42	pc	67	42	pc
Sydney	75	63	t	69	61	sh
Tokyo	76	58	pc	71	57	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Today	Saturday	Saturday
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 12-25	WSW 12-25	WSW 12-25
Pendleton	SW 8-16	WSW 15-25	WSW 15-25	WSW 15-25

UV INDEX TODAY

1

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

3

Noon - 2 p.m.

4

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

4

6-7, High;

2

8-10, Very High;

1

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.

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

showers t-storms rain flurries snow ice cold front warm front stationary front high low

National Summary: Showers and thunderstorms will extend from northern New England to the Gulf Coast today. Showers and storms will also extend from central California to Washington. The Plains, Rockies and deserts will be dry.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 98° in Blythe, Calif. **Low 19°** in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	77	52	pc	78	46	pc
Atlanta	74	57	t	78	58	s
Atlanta City	69	57	t	64	48	pc
Baltimore	77	54	t	71	43	sh
Billingham	83	51	s	70	44	t
Birmingham	77	56	t	79	55	s
Boise	73	46	pc	62	42	sh
Boston	72	54	c	61	42	pc
Charleston, SC	80	61	t	82	57	pc
Charleston, WV	59	52	t	70	45	s
Chicago	64	40	sh	54	37	s
Cleveland	79	56	s	81	61	pc
Dallas	76	47	s	76	40	pc
Denver	65	39	pc	61	38	s
Detroit	85	61	c	85	63	pc
El Paso	59	34	pc	62	37	pc
Fairbanks	62	44	s	71	48	c
Fargo	84	73	s	84	72	pc
Honolulu	81	57	pc	82	59	pc
Houston	69	47	pc	68	46	pc
Indianapolis	83	62	t	84	58	pc
Jacksonville	71	49	t	79	60	pc
Kansas City	81	63	t	81	59	s
Las Vegas	90	63	pc	79	59	s
Little Rock	78	56	s	81	59	s
Los Angeles	73	57	c	76	58	pc
Louisville	72	54	c	74	51	s
Memphis	77	58	pc	80	58	s
Miami	82	70	t	86	69	sh
Millwaukee	49	36	pc	55	43	s
Minneapolis	62	44	s	72	56	pc
Nashville	76	55	t	79	51	s
New Orleans	81	64	c	82	64	s
New York City						