

# Malheur refuge manager: Takeover will drive some workers away

Associated Press

ESTES PARK, Colo. — About a third of the staff of an Oregon wildlife refuge that was taken over by armed protesters will probably leave their jobs because of the lingering effects of the occupation, the refuge manager said Thursday.

Some worry about being confronted by other protesters who sympathize with the anti-government group that took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for 41 days earlier this year, manager Chad Karges said. Others are simply worn down by having to retell the story to others.

"If they're a particular individual that struggles with these types of events, then having to repeat that story over and over and over is hard on them," he said.

The refuge has a staff of 16, said Karges, who was in Colorado to accept an award from the National Wildlife Federation.



Chad Karges, the manager of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Estes Park, Colo., on Thursday.

The National Wildlife Federation award praised Karges and his staff for building a good relationship with nearby residents long before

the takeover. In an interview, Karges said the refuge staff has worked for years to involve residents in decision-making, and that was the

reason most opposed the occupation. "You didn't see that community raise their hands and support the militia occupation. You saw them raise their hands and ask them to go home," he said.

"Without that process, I'm convinced we would have had a different outcome," Karges said. The occupation would have lasted longer, and some federal workers — including Karges — probably would have felt so unwelcome they wouldn't have returned, he said.

The protesters wanted the federal government to relinquish control of Western lands and free two imprisoned Oregon ranchers. They eventually surrendered and now face federal charges, but one — Robert "LaVoy" Finicum — was fatally shot by officers.

In Portland on Thursday, 42-year-old Jason Blomgren pleaded guilty to a federal conspiracy charge related to the occupation.

Blomgren, of Murphy, North

Carolina, traveled across the country to join the protesters. He told a judge he served as an armed guard.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors dismissed a charge of possessing a firearm in a federal facility.

Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 14. Prosecutors recommend six months of home detention.

Karges said workers finished repairing damage caused by the occupiers on Wednesday. The next step is deciding on new security measures. He said that could include surveillance cameras and gates but he declined to offer specifics.

Crews have caught up on maintenance they couldn't do during the occupation, but some wildlife-management work was thrown permanently behind, Karges said.

"Biological activities, when you miss the window, you miss the window," he said. "It's not there again for a long time. Those things you can't catch up on."

## BRIEFLY

### Marijuana skeptics take aim at potency, packaging in Colorado

DENVER (AP) — Colorado pot skeptics have been cleared to start work on the most sweeping effort yet to attack legalization of the drug.

A ballot measure cleared for petitioning Thursday by the Colorado Supreme Court would set new potency and packaging limits on recreational marijuana.

Under the proposal, packaging would have to include warnings that marijuana carries a risk of "permanent loss of brain abilities." The measure also includes a new potency limit, meaning that popular forms of marijuana such as vape pens and some edibles would be illegal.

Supporters of the measure say that most marijuana sold today is too strong and that current warning labels are inadequate.

The pot skeptics tried and failed earlier this year to get state lawmakers to limit potency. Lawmakers were sympathetic but resisted the change because the state constitution expressly permits all forms of marijuana. The industry compared the change to regulating the strength of alcohol.

The marijuana critics have proposed changing the constitution to allow potency limits. Backed by legalization opponents including former State House Speaker Frank McNulty, the measure also states

that pot businesses can't get out of the changes by arguing they are impractical. Marijuana industry attorneys say the measure would ban 80 percent of marijuana products sold today.

### Montana Judge says waste leak from coal plant ponds is 'alarming'

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A state judge expressed alarm at the estimated 200 million gallons of contaminated water seeping annually from leaky ash-storage ponds at a Montana power plant serving customers across the Pacific Northwest — a problem that's persisted years after the company and state officials reached an agreement to address it.

A 2012 deal between Montana environmental regulators and the Pennsylvania-based manager of Colstrip Steam Electric Station was intended to clean up decades of contamination of surrounding water tables.

The agreement, known as an administrative order on consent, came after the plant's six owners paid \$25 million in a separate settlement to Colstrip residents whose water was fouled by the plant's ash ponds.

District Judge Robert Deschamps said he found it "alarming" that 380 gallons of wastewater continues to seep from the ponds every minute. That's nearly 200 million gallons a year.

Claims by plant manager Talen Energy that the seepage was being effectively controlled "is clearly a disputed fact," Deschamps wrote in a Wednesday ruling.

"What is a reasonable amount of time in which the (state) should act versus conduct further study, given there has already been 30 years of seepage and the (administrative order) itself was seven years in the making?" Deschamps wrote.

The judge rejected arguments from Montana Department of Environmental Quality officials that they were appropriately handling the matter. That means environmentalists can proceed with a lawsuit challenging the 2012 agreement, which set few deadlines for action and could entail years of further study.

Talen spokesman Todd Martin said in an email that the company was abiding by the agreement to investigate and remediate the ash-pond leaks. He said the agreement "established a formal and comprehensive process" to remediate the seepage. Opponents warned that Colstrip could close long before Talen cleans up the problem.

Talen is seeking to get out of the plant within two years. Meanwhile, Colstrip co-owners Puget Sound Energy, Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp are considering shutting down at least two of the plant's four electricity-generating units in coming years as part of a transition away from coal-fired electricity by utilities.

## Biz lobby boycotts group studying employee law

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Business groups are boycotting a work group tasked with discussing proposals for a bill next session governing how employers schedule employees.

In a letter, business lobbyists told lawmakers heading the group that labor advocates were attacking them during the first meeting May 26 and did "not provide a constructive forum" for discussion.

"We respectfully withdraw from this interim work group," the June 1 letter states.

The letter was signed by Associated Oregon Industries, Northwest Grocery Association, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Trucking Association and Portland Business Alliance.

The letter also revealed some of Oregon's employers' frustrations over a pending ballot measure to levy a \$3

billion-per-year corporate sales tax and a series of new mandates for employers passed in the past two years. Lawmakers hiked minimum wage rates earlier this year. Last year, they passed legislation to require paid sick leave and an employee retirement program. Initiative Petition 28 to raise corporate taxes is headed to the November ballot.

"Oregon employers simply can't afford any more one-size fits all costly mandates," the letter stated.

Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Paul Holvey, chairmen of the Senate and House workforce committees, convened the work group to include equal representation from business and labor lobbyists and from Democrat and Republican lawmakers.

Dembrow, D-Portland, and Holvey, D-Eugene, said they plan to continue the work group and will invite other business representatives to join in.

## Corrections

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

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### AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Some sun, a shower in the p.m.	Variable clouds, showers around	Partly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Partly sunny and very warm
76° 53°	72° 44°	75° 43°	84° 48°	92° 62°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

80° 57°	76° 44°	79° 48°	89° 56°	96° 59°
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### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 62°	47°
Normals 79°	52°
Records 106° (1961)	40° (1893)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"
Month to date	0.40"
Normal month to date	0.80"
Year to date	5.99"
Last year to date	4.99"
Normal year to date	7.35"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 70°	46°
Normals 80°	53°
Records 102° (1961)	38° (2004)

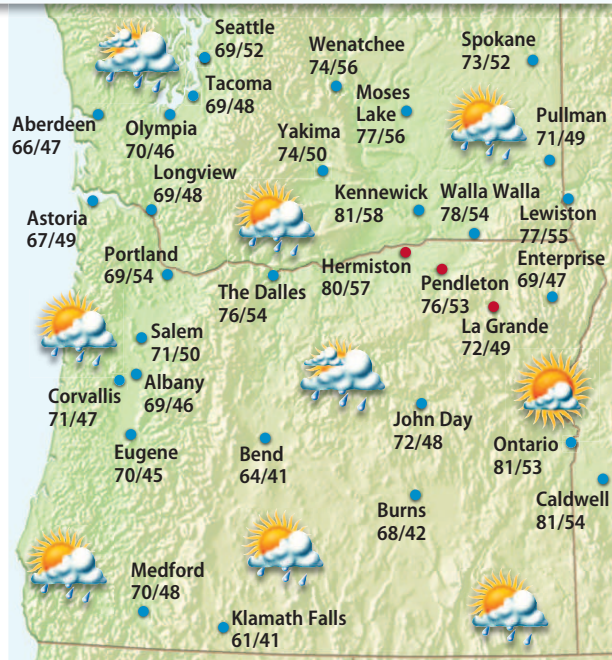
#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.38"
Year to date	4.35"
Last year to date	3.14"
Normal year to date	5.52"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:05 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:09 p.m.
Moonset today	3:37 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
June 20	June 27	July 4	July 11



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

### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Times of sun and clouds today with a passing shower.

**Eastern Washington:** Partial sunshine today, a passing shower in the north and toward the Cascades.

**Cascades:** Clouds and sun today with a shower. A passing shower or two tonight. A shower tomorrow.

**Northern California:** Cool today with some sun; a shower in spots. Mainly clear tonight with a shower.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** A shower today, except dry in the south and upper Treasure Valley.

**Western Washington:** Variable clouds today with a shower. A passing shower or two tonight.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	67	49	pc	63	49	sh
Baker City	70	45	pc	58	32	sh
Bend	64	41	pc	63	35	pc
Brookings	61	47	pc	63	48	pc
Burns	68	42	pc	63	31	sh
Enterprise	69	47	pc	57	37	sh
Eugene	70	45	pc	71	41	pc
Heppner	72	50	pc	67	41	pc
Hermiston	80	57	pc	76	44	pc
John Day	72	48	pc	65	38	sh
Klamath Falls	61	41	pc	65	35	pc
La Grande	72	49	pc	61	35	sh
Meacham	71	46	pc	59	33	sh
Medford	70	48	pc	75	47	pc
Newport	62	48	pc	61	45	pc
North Bend	64	48	pc	64	48	pc
Ontario	81	53	pc	75	47	sh
Pasco	80	56	pc	76	44	sh
Pendleton	76	53	pc	72	44	sh
Portland	69	54	pc	67	50	sh
Redmond	66	43	pc	67	33	pc
Salem	71	50	pc	69	46	pc
Spokane	73	52	pc	60	43	sh
Ukiah	67	44	pc	61	35	sh
Vancouver	68	52	sh	66	47	sh
Walla Walla	78	54	pc	71	47	sh
Yakima	74	50	pc	72	40	sh

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	91	68	c	93	67	t
Hong Kong	90	82	sh	90	83	sh
Jerusalem	83	65	s	87	70	s
London	65	54	t	66	53	pc
Mexico City	75	54	t	75	53	t
Moscow	80	62	c	81	60	t
Paris	67	53	t	66	51	sh
Rome	76	61	pc	80	63	pc
Seoul	81	66	s	82	66	pc
Sydney	70	57	c	67	56	r
Tokyo	81	71	pc	81	71	s

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
<b>Boardman</b>	NE 6-12	WSW 8-16
<b>Pendleton</b>	NNE 6-12	WSW 8-16

### UV INDEX TODAY

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

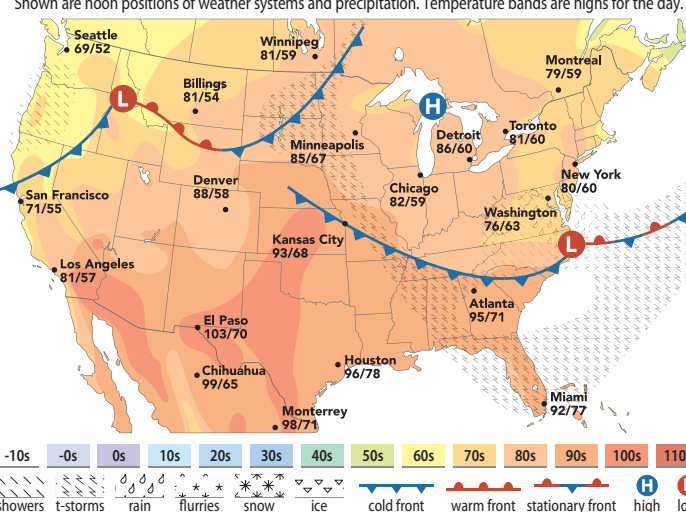
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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 and thunderstorms will extend from the middle Mississippi Valley to the southern Atlantic coast today. Thunderstorms will erupt over the northern Plains with spotty showers in the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 105° in Roswell, N.M. Low 20° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	94	62	s	99	68	s
Atlanta	95	71	t	84	64	pc
Atlanta City	73	59	r	74	58	s
Baltimore	78	58	r	81	56	s
Billings	81	54	pc	88	57	pc
Birmingham	94	71	t	88	67	t
Boise	81	56	pc	73	48	sh
Boston	69	58	pc	73	57	sh
Charleston, SC	82	59	pc	83	66	pc
Chicago	81	59	pc	84	57	s
Chicago, IL	82	59	pc	85	62	s
Cleveland	81	61	s	84	64	s
Dallas	97	77	pc	96	78	pc
Denver	88	58	s	92	64	s
Detroit	86	60	s	87	62	s
El Paso	103	70	s	106	74	s
Fairbanks	82	59	pc	72	57	c
Fargo	82	68	t	85	71	t
Honolulu	84	72	c	84	73	c
Houston	9					