

Time needed for Hanford to recover from fire

By ANNETTE CARY
Tri-City Herald

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Walking across the Hanford Reach National Monument lands that burned in last week's Range 12 Fire is an otherworldly experience.

"It looks like a moonscape, to be quite honest," said Heidi Newsome, biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "It looks like you are on another planet."

About half the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve — part of the original security zone around the Hanford nuclear reservation west and southwest of Highway 240 — burned. The reserve is one of the largest remaining intact shrub steppe habitats in the Columbia Basin, much of which is in rapid decline in the West.

This is the third time Newsome has seen all or much of the reserve burn, and the experience gets no easier.

"It's emotionally hard," she said. "It's deflating to put so much work in and see it happen again."

But each time she's seen the reserve burn, the results have not been quite as devastating as the time before.

Rehabilitation with native plants after fires in 2000 and 2007 may have helped make the ecosystem more resilient.

And each time the fire has been suppressed with less of the monument land burned.

"We're doing a better job getting it under control," Newsome said.

She was advising firefighters Sunday when the decision was made to set Rattlesnake Mountain on fire.

The plan was to create a back burn on the monument as the fire, which



In this July 31 photo, a wildfire crests a knoll in the early morning hours in the Lower Valley near Outlook, Wash.

started on the Yakima Training Center, swept across the shrub steppe, with only the monument land between the blaze and the contaminated areas of the Hanford nuclear reservation.

She supported the decision to set the fire, which burned from the 1200 Foot Level Road up the steep slopes of Rattlesnake Mountain and over the top.

The controlled burn was necessary to protect people, nearby communities and those fighting the fire, she said.

"We did what needed to be done," she said.

The fire crossed onto part of the reserve west of the mountain, but the back fire and Range 12 Fire merged Monday morning, and the blaze died out because it had no more fuel to burn.

It was a much different outcome than in 2000. The 24 Command fire burned up over the top of Rattlesnake

Mountain and moved onto the central part of the Hanford nuclear reservation, threatening radioactive waste stored in the center of the site. It also burned 11 homes in Benton City. All 77,000 acres of the reserve burned.

In 2007, another blaze that spread much like last week's fire burned about 55,000 acres of the reserve, but did not reach the peak of Rattlesnake Mountain.

This time, the fire was held at 35,000 acres on the reserve.

Firefighters considered other options to contain last week's fire, rather than burning Rattlesnake Mountain.

They could have used a bulldozer to carve up the soil and form a line, leaving no vegetation to burn. But that would have meant running over rare plants and cultural areas important to tribes.

Foes, fans of corporate tax measure raise millions

SALEM (AP) — Millions of dollars have been raised by the two groups campaigning on opposite sides of a November ballot measure that would increase corporate taxes.

Measure 97 would create a 2.5 percent tax on sales exceeding \$25 million for some corporations. Last week Gov. Kate Brown endorsed the measure, which would be the largest tax hike on corporations in Oregon history.

The Statesman Journal reports Our Oregon, the group supporting the tax, has raised \$1.5 million so far. The money is from just two donations of \$750,000 each by the Oregon Education Association and SEIU

Local 503, the state's largest public sector unions.

The business-backed Defeat the Tax on Oregon Sales is campaigning against Measure 97, and has raised more than \$5 million from nearly 800 donations. Most contributions are from corporations or their executives.

The campaigns are likely to spend heavily on television, radio and digital advertising.

Supporters of the measure say it would re-ignite investment in public schools, health care and senior services, all while allowing the state to tackle its other financial problems. Opponents say it would hurt businesses and curb private

sector growth.

Other officials have said Measure 97 could help avert a looming \$1.4 billion budget deficit. The potential deficit is being driven by the cost of implementing the Affordable Care Act — also known as Obamacare — public pension costs and a higher demand for state services, among other reasons, officials said.

A report from the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office found the measure would raise \$3 billion a year, but act as a regressive tax by increasing prices. The higher prices amount to an average per capita tax increase of \$600 a year, mostly affecting low- and middle-income Oregonians,

the report showed. The report also found that Measure 97 would slow private sector job growth while boosting public hiring.

The extra funds that would be generated by the measure are broadly earmarked for education, health care and senior services, although it doesn't say how the money should be spent in those areas. However the Legislature could spend the new funds anyway it pleased.

Brown, a Democrat who's running to keep her gubernatorial seat in November, addressed this issue in her endorsement, saying she "will make sure" the funds are spent as voters expect.

BRIEFLY

Authorities identify 4 victims of motel fire in Newport

NEWPORT (AP) — Authorities have identified the remains of four people who perished in a motel fire in Newport.

Newport Police Lt. Jason Malloy said Monday the bodies of 51-year-old Tammi Sue Hepner and 63-year-old Allen Arthur Hepner, both of Portland, were found under rubble on the first floor. They had been staying in room 221.

The bodies of 60-year-old Sandra Sue Shoemaker and 64-year-old Danny Keith Shoemaker, both of Springfield, were discovered deeper in the rubble. They had been staying in room 220.

The police say in a statement that rooms 220 and 221 were immediately engulfed in flames that blocked the exits.

Three other motel guests were treated for minor injuries and a fourth was taken to a burn center.

The cause is under investigation.

Man, 81, gets 83 years in prison for child sexual abuse

BAKER CITY (AP) — An Eastern Oregon man has been sentenced to 83 years in prison for raping and sexually abusing three young girls.

Baker County District Attorney Matthew Shirtcliff says 81-year-old Robert Lee Witter, of Huntington, was sentenced last week for 15 counts related to child sexual abuse and a firearm violation.

In a news release, Shirtcliff called it "the most graphic and heinous child sex crime" he's ever prosecuted.

The Argus Observer reports that Witter was found guilty in July after a trial in Baker County Circuit Court.

3 Portland businessman disavow affiliation with Trump event

SEATTLE (AP) — Three Portland businessmen listed on an invitation for an upcoming Seattle fundraiser for Donald Trump say they have no plans to attend the Republican nominee's event later this month.

The Seattle Times reported Monday that Peter Stott, president of Portland-based Columbia Investments, said he had no role in the campaign and did not approve the use of his name for the Aug. 30 event.

Gordon Sondland and Bashar Wali, Portland-based executives of Provenance Hotels, issued a statement to the Willamette Week citing Trump's treatment of Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the parents of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq, as one reason they don't support Trump. A month ago, Sondland had been announced as Trump's Oregon finance chairman.

Oregon Supreme Court upholds death in Woodburn bombing

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court has upheld death sentences for a father and son who were convicted of murder for the 2008 bombing of a Woodburn bank.

The Salem Statesman-Journal reported that the high court declined on Friday to revisit a May decision not to grant Bruce and Joshua Turnidge a new trial.

The bank bombing killed Oregon State Police trooper William Hakim and Woodburn Police Officer Tom Tennant.

The bomb detonated after law enforcement mistook it for a hoax and tried to dismantle it.

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.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2016, EO Media Group

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Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

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COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A thunderstorm in spots	Mostly sunny and nice	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny and very warm	Very hot with plenty of sunshine
77° 52°	83° 54°	88° 56°	94° 59°	97° 64°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
82° 53°	87° 54°	93° 54°	98° 56°	101° 65°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 75° 50°

Normals 89° 59°

Records 111° (1972) 40° (1893)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace

Month to date Trace

Normal month to date 0.09"

Year to date 7.32"

Last year to date 5.00"

Normal year to date 8.08"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 77° 56°

Normals 89° 59°

Records 108° (1972) 40° (1934)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.05"

Year to date 4.94"

Last year to date 3.25"

Normal year to date 6.00"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:48 a.m.

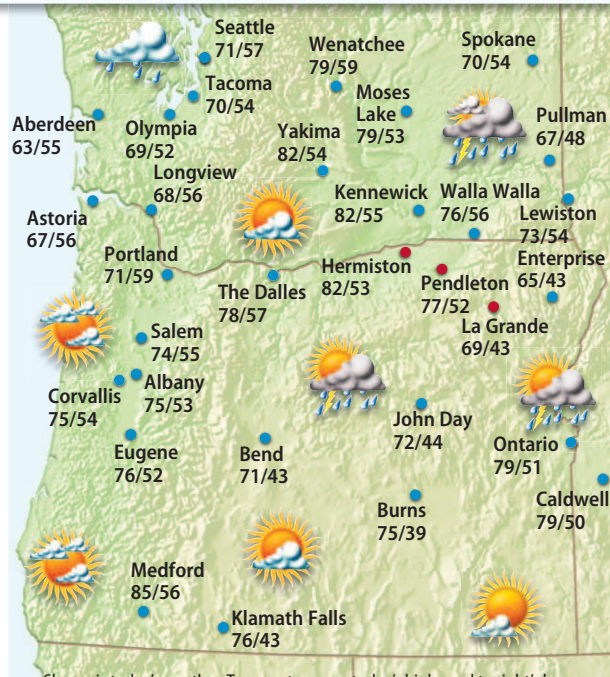
Sunset tonight 8:12 p.m.

Moonrise today 12:47 p.m.

Moonset today 11:37 p.m.

First Full Last New

Aug 10 Aug 18 Aug 24 Sep 1



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today; a shower in spots across the north. Mainly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: A thunderstorm in parts of the area today; not as warm in the south.

Western Washington: A stray shower today; mostly cloudy, but clouds breaking for some sun across the south.

Eastern Washington: Variably cloudy today; a thunderstorm in spots near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: Partly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Mostly sunny and pleasant tomorrow; warmer.

Northern California: Low clouds followed by some sun at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	67	56	c	69	55	pc
Baker City	66	38	t	78	43	s
Bend	71	43	pc	80	46	s
Brookings	67	52	pc	70	53	pc
Burns	75	39	s	81	43	s
Enterprise	65	43	c	76	48	pc
Eugene	76	52	pc	83	52	s
Hepner	75	49	c	81	50	s
Hermiston	82	53	pc	87	54	s
John Day	72	44	t	83	48	s
Klamath Falls	76	43	pc	82	44	s
La Grande	69	43	c	79	50	s
Meacham	66	40	c	76	45	s
Medford	85	56	pc	91	59	s
Newport	63	52	pc	64	52	pc
North Bend	66	53	pc	68	53	pc
Ontario	79	51	t	83	56	pc
Pasco	82	55	pc	87	56	s
Pendleton	77	52	c	83	54	s
Portland	71	59	pc	80	59	pc
Redmond	74	43	pc	83	45	s
Salem	74	55	pc	82	56	pc
Spokane	70	54	c	76	58	pc
Ukiah	67	42	c	76	45	s
Vancouver	70	57	pc	79	57	pc
Walla Walla	76	56	c	84	59	s
Yakima	82	54	pc	86	56	s

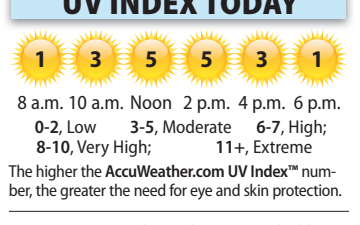
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	88	76	pc	91	80	pc
Hong Kong	94	81	t	92	80	sh
Jerusalem	86	69	s	87	68	s
London	70	51	pc	67	56	pc
Mexico City	72	56	t	74	55	t
Moscow	76	57	pc	79	59	pc
Paris	73	50	pc	71	51	pc
Rome	86	67	s	84	67	s
Seoul	92	78	t	93	77	s
Sydney	68	55	pc	72	50	pc
Tokyo	94	79	pc	91	77	t

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	W 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

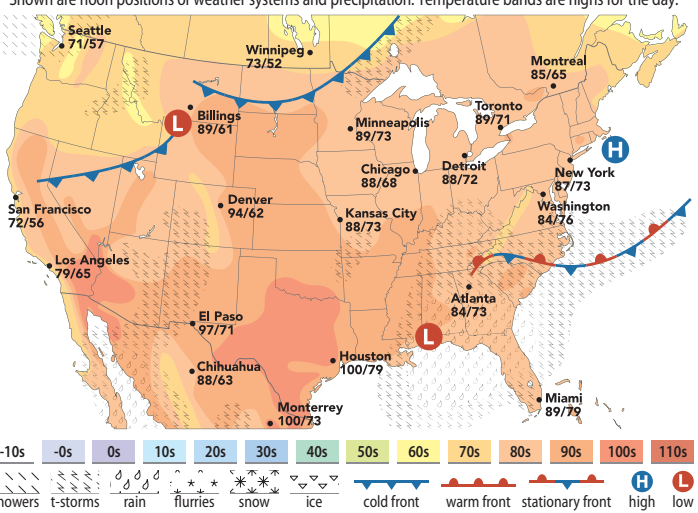


8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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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: Locally drenching thunderstorms will affect the Southeast and Southwest states today. There will be an elevated risk of flooding along the northeast Gulf Coast. Storms will dot part of the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 112° in Needles, Calif. Low 26° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	92	67	pc	86	64	t
Atlanta	84	73	t	83	72	c
Atlantic City	85	75	pc	86	77	pc
Baltimore	84	73	pc	91	75	pc
Billings	89</					