

Five bodies found in burned home

HUBBARD (AP) — Authorities investigating fires that appear to have been deliberately set in rural western Oregon have recovered the remains of five people.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office said Thursday that detectives confirm the remains are of a man, a woman and three children. They were found over the last two days in the smoldering debris, and the bodies appear consistent with that of a family which owns the property, the sheriff's office said.

The medical examiner will confirm the identities. The sheriff's office said it does not believe there is a danger to the public.

Investigators are trying to determine what took place in the pre-dawn hours of Tuesday, when firefighters found a home, a shop and detached garage ablaze. The property is near the town of Hubbard amid hop farms in the Willamette Valley off Interstate 5, between Portland and Salem.

Each of the fires ignited separately, sheriff's Lt. Chris Baldrige had said, describing the case as a criminal investigation.

The residence belonged to Erin Kroeker, 39 and Keith Kroeker, 42, and their three children.



In this Wednesday photo, emergency personnel investigate the scene after a fire damaged three structures on a property in rural Hubbard, Ore. The Marion County Sheriff's Office said Thursday that detectives confirm the remains are of a man, a woman and three children. They were found over the last two days in the smoldering debris, and the bodies appear consistent with that of a family which owns the property.

Neighbor Michelle Palacios said the family has been there for years, their children attending local schools, the Woodburn Independent newspaper reported.

"We've always been neighborly ... we've gone to each other's jewelry parties, we've exchanged Christmas cookies," Palacios was quoted as saying. "This is just bizarre."

Dems want probe of Trump Cabinet pick over stock sales

Wyden asks for ethics investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Democrats said Thursday that the House ethics office should investigate whether stock sales by a congressman who is now one of President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet picks broke any laws.

The Democrats cited a Wall Street Journal report last month that Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., had traded over \$300,000 worth of shares in health care companies over the past four years while pushing legislation that might affect those stocks' values. Trump wants Price to head the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Congressman Price had the influence and was actively involved in pushing health care policies while simultaneously making dozens of trades in companies that would be impacted by those policies," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters.

Schumer, along with Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the House's independent Office of Congressional Ethics should conduct an investigation before Senate hearings begin, a process that could last months. Until then, they said, hearings on Price's confirmation should be delayed.

"We don't know if he broke the law. But there are certainly enough serious questions to warrant a serious investigation," Schumer said.

Top Republicans said they saw no reason to slow Price's nomination.

"They just want delay for delay's sake," No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said in a brief interview.

Price, who has long advocated repealing President Barack Obama's health care law and revamping Medicare, is among eight selections for Trump's administration who Democrats want to examine closely during upcoming hearings.

In a written statement,

Trump transition spokesman Phil Blando called the Democrats' demands a "stunt" to distract attention from the failures of Obama's law, which Trump and congressional Republicans plan to repeal this year. He said Price, a surgeon and conservative, is "uniquely qualified" to head the agency.

Blando said Democratic Sens. Tom Carper of Delaware, Mark Warner of Virginia and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island have also traded valuable health-related stocks and said, "Hypocrisy is apparently alive and well this morning in Washington."

Warner spokeswoman Rachel Cohen said an independent trustee manages his investments, while spokesman Richard Davidson said Whitehouse does not direct his trading. Carper said in a written statement that he complies with all financial disclosure requirements and criticism of his actions is "inaccurate and unreasonable."

Democrats spoke to

reporters soon after the liberal-leaning Public Citizen sent a letter to the Office of Congressional Ethics requesting an investigation of stock trades by Price and another lawmaker, Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y. The letter cited possible violations of insider trading and conflict of interest laws.

Collins spokesman Michael McAdams said the lawmaker "has followed all ethical guidelines" about personal finances.

As the new Congress convened this week, House Republicans voted initially to gut the Ethics office. Within hours, they reversed themselves under pressure from Trump and others.

The Ethics office receives charges from the public about misconduct by House members and aides. It is governed by an eight-member board whose members cannot include current members of Congress. The office can make recommendations to the House Ethics Committee, composed of House members.

BRIEFLY

Man accused of attempted murder for driving into crowd

SALEM (AP) — A Salem man has been charged with attempted murder for driving into a crowd of people early on New Year's Day.

The Statesman Journal reports that the 31-year-old man was arrested Tuesday after striking and injuring three people around 2 a.m. Sunday.

Police say a fight broke out in a supermarket parking lot early Sunday after a fight at a nearby bar spilled into the street. Police say the suspect allegedly got into his car, circled the group of people fighting and then drove into the crowd of people.

All three people who were injured in the crash have been released from the hospital.

The suspect was arrested on charges of reckless driving, attempted murder, assault and tampering with a witness. He was taken to Marion County jail.

The agency says Oregon construction firms were cited most frequently last year for violating rules about fall protection.

Walter Custom Homes owner Tom Walter calls the new rule a "regulation looking for a problem," saying his firm has constructed 118 homes since 2003 and no workers have been injured in a fall.

Appeals court sidesteps Port of Portland case

SALEM (AP) — Questions about the legality of a Port of Portland subsidy for ocean carriers have been kicked to the Oregon Supreme Court by a federal appeals court.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the financial system used to manage the subsidy program isn't legal under current Oregon case law.

"We are hesitant to expand Oregon law in a manner that may be contrary to Oregon's wishes and in an important subject matter in Oregon's history," the ruling said.

At issue is a Port of Portland program that paid ocean carriers to stop at its Terminal 6 container terminal, offsetting the carriers' expense to call on the facility.

The port created the subsidy because of alleged work slowdowns by the longshoremen's union due to a labor dispute that discouraged ocean carriers from calling on Terminal 6 in 2015 due to low productivity — despite the subsidies.

Northwest agriculture exporters depended on the Portland container facility to ship crops to Asia, but ocean carriers stopped calling on Terminal 6 in 2015 due to low productivity — despite the subsidies.

Local agricultural exporters are now saddled with greater transportation costs, as they must truck goods to Seattle-area ports.

Oregon enacts tougher fall protections for builders

EUGENE (AP) — A state regulation that took effect Jan. 1 requires Oregon construction contractors to make sure workers are protected from falls if work is done six or more feet above a surface.

The Register-Guard reports that the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division says the new rule will primarily affect home builders because many commercial contractors already require the protections.

The previous state OSHA regulation only required the protections for work at 10 or more feet off a surface.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunshine and quite cold	A little afternoon snow	Cold with icy mix	A bit of morning snow; cloudy	Mostly cloudy with a shower
21° 6°	22° 18°	27° 24°	35° 29°	37° 31°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
21° 6°	22° 18°	27° 24°	35° 29°	37° 31°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
20° 9°	19° 17°	26° 22°	31° 21°	31° 28°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 15° 0°

Normals 40° 26°

Records 62° (1933) -11° (2004)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.11"

Normal month to date 0.29"

Year to date 0.11"

Last year to date 0.01"

Normal year to date 0.29"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 20° -4°

Normals 40° 27°

Records 63° (1933) -11° (1950)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.10"

Normal month to date 0.20"

Year to date 0.10"

Last year to date 0.01"

Normal year to date 0.20"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 7:36 a.m.

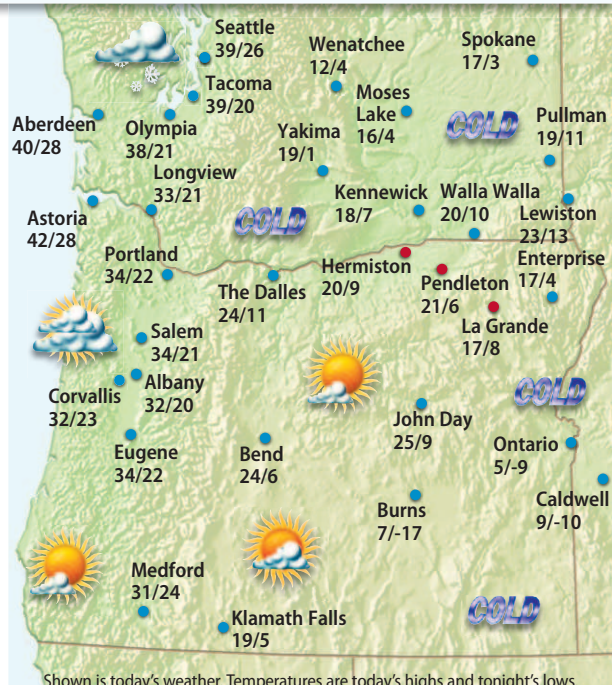
Sunset tonight 4:27 p.m.

Moonrise today 12:16 p.m.

Moonset today 12:44 a.m.

Full Last New First

Jan 12 Jan 19 Jan 27 Feb 3



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Chilly today with intervals of clouds and sun. A passing shower in the south tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunshine and patchy clouds today; very cold.

Western Washington: Times of clouds and sun today. Mostly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today; however, sunnier across the south. Mostly cloudy tonight.

Cascades: Partly sunny and chilly today. Mostly cloudy tonight; cold.

Northern California: Clouds and sun today; frigid in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	42	28	c	39	33	r
Baker City	6	-12	s	9	6	sn
Bend	24	6	s	29	25	sn
Brookings	46	36	pc	49	49	r
Burns	7	-17	s	16	13	sn
Enterprise	17	4	s	21	18	sn
Eugene	34	22	pc	34	33	i
Heppner	21	4	s	20	16	sn
Hermiston	20	9	s	19	17	sn
John Day	25	9	s	31	28	sf
Klamath Falls	19	5	pc	37	32	sn
La Grande	17	8	s	22	20	sn
Meacham	16	8	s	22	19	sn
Medford	31	24	s	42	41	r
Newport	41	31	c	41	36	r
North Bend	46	33	pc	48	43	r
Ontario	5	-9	s	13	11	sn
Pasco	21	7	s	22	14	c
Pendleton	21	6	s	22	18	sn
Portland	34	22	pc	31	29	i
Redmond	23	0	s	29	26	sn
Salem	34	21	pc	33	30	i
Spokane	17	3	pc	20	18	c
Ukiah	21	4	s	26	21	sn
Vancouver	34	21	pc	31	28	i
Walla Walla	20	10	s	26	23	c
Yakima	19	1	pc	23	14	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	42	25	c	40	25	sf
Hong Kong	76	68	s	75	67	pc
Jerusalem	58	41	s	54	38	s
London	45	42	r	49	42	c
Mexico City	78	48	pc	72	41	pc
Moscow	0	-16	sf	-9	-17	c
Paris	33	25	pc	36	35	pc
Rome	39	24	s	40	26	s
Seoul	49	30	s	48	32	c
Sydney	76	65	sh	80	67	pc
Tokyo	46	36	s	48	39	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	NNE 4-8
Pendleton	E 4-8	NNE 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.

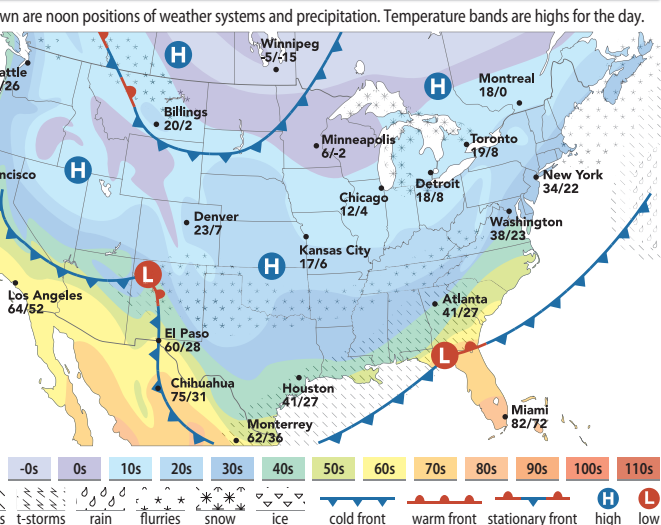
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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: As snow continues near the Great Lakes, snow will leave the coastal Northeast today. Snow will fall over the Plains and the Tennessee Valley. Rain will change to snow over the interior South at night.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 83° in Harlingen, Texas Low -39° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	43	20	sf	43	27	pc
Atlanta	41	27	sh	37	20	sn
Atlanta City	38	25	pc	31	20	sn
Baltimore	35	21	c	29	16	pc
Billings	20	2	c	19	6	pc
Birmingham	36	23	c	35	20	sn
Boise	11	-4	s	19	18	sn
Boston	33	22	sn	30	21	c
Charleston, SC	61	39	pc	39	24	sn
Charleston, WV	24	14	c	23	15	pc
Chicago	12	4				