

# Explosives considered to clear ice from Snake River

By GORDON R. FRIEDMAN  
The Oregonian

Officials in Malheur County are asking the National Guard to consider using explosives to blast away a mile-long ice floe blocking parts of the Snake River, according to an emergency proclamation obtained by *The Oregonian*.

That kind of operation has never been done by the Oregon National Guard before, said Cory Grogan, spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Management.

"It's like anything else — it needs to be analyzed and discussed," Grogan said. "We're coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers to see if that's even a possibility."

County officials on Wednesday asked Gov. Kate Brown to declare a state of emergency for the area, citing dangerous levels of snow and ice and dwindling survival supplies. That's when they made their request for explosives.

Bryan Hockaday, a spokesman for the governor, said Brown has been briefed on the situation in Malheur County and is directing her staff and state emergency management officials to "evaluate the recommendations of local emergency



Ice flows freely in the Snake River on Monday afternoon. The river breached a bank north of Payette along River Road.

managers." Brown declared a state of emergency Wednesday afternoon.

Though it may be amusing to think of blowing up a mile-long block of ice, the danger it poses is no laughing matter.

Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, whose legislative district covers Malheur County, said the area may never have seen such horrendous winter conditions.

More than 30 onion sheds, a Malheur County Fairgrounds building and seven

commercial buildings have collapsed from ice, according to the county's emergency declaration.

Looming ice jams pose a serious flood risk on the Snake River, Payette River and Malheur River. When the eventual melt arrives, some residents near the riverbanks may need to evacuate to avoid floodwaters. Residents along the Snake River — including in neighboring Payette County, Idaho — have been given an evacuation notice.

"If we get a flood event we're in real trouble," said Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario. "This is not a joke. This is bad."

Ice melt and snow shovels are all but unavailable as retailers are sold out. Inmates are being used to fill sandbags at one county subdivision.

The unusually bad cold snap is expected to continue in Eastern Oregon. Temperatures are forecast to stay below 20 degrees and snow is likely to hit the area next week.

# Officials decline Crook County snow emergency request

BEND (AP) — Oregon officials have rejected Crook County's request for money and manpower to help dig out its snowed-in rural neighborhoods.

The state concluded Wednesday that the county hadn't used all of its resources, reported *The Bulletin*. Officials did, however, offer assistance from the Oregon Department of Transportation for an estimated \$55 per hour, plus equipment costs.

The county declined that offer, said Crook County Judge Seth Crawford. It had been hoping for state financial assistance and National Guard equipment.

Crawford discussed the county's emergency request with representatives of Gov. Kate Brown's office on Wednesday morning.

"They were understanding of the situation and respected the county's decision to declare an emergency," said Crawford, "but due to the state's limited resources they were unable to provide the county with services before Friday, and even then they would charge us."

He said it's been arranged for a private company to plow the private rural roads that the county doesn't maintain on Thursday.

Office of Emergency Management spokesman Cory Grogan said the state is trying to be responsible with taxpayers' money and the county still had local options it could turn to.

"It was determined that their resources hadn't been exhausted enough," Grogan said.

# Oregon bans weapons in state workplaces

SALEM (AP) — Oregon officials banned state employees from carrying weapons in the workplace unless they're needed for their jobs, causing consternation Thursday among Republican leaders in the Legislature.

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services said it imposed the ban, which became effective on Jan. 6, in hopes of "providing a safe and secure environment for employees and visitors."

Banned are firearms, daggers, slingshots, and a host of other specified weapons. Oddly, even knobkerries were mentioned. Knobkerries are clubs used by indigenous people like the Zulus

in southern Africa, and are probably unknown to most Oregonians.

House Republican leader said Thursday the order was tantamount to limiting employees' right to self-defense. In a statement, McLane said he would ask Gov. Kate Brown where the authority for the new rules comes from.

Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli said the Brown administration "has no business confiscating self-defense rights from public servants, volunteers and others, who have committed themselves to serving our state."

The order does not appear to apply to lawmakers.

# Obama expands Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

ASHLAND (AP) — President Barack Obama has expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southwestern Oregon to protect its rich biodiversity.

The expansion announced Thursday adds about 48,000 acres to a landscape of rich forests, grasslands and shrubs that was established as a monument in 2000. It includes about 5,000 acres in northern California.

Obama said in his pro-

clamation that the expansion will create a landscape that will connect vital habitat, protect the watershed and preserve the area's extraordinary biodiversity. The monument, originally 65,000 acres, is home to rare plant and animal species.

Conservation groups and Oregon's Democratic U.S. senators praised the decision.

Oregon Public Broadcasting says detractors have expressed concern that a larger monument would hurt the region's economy with limits on logging and grazing. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association said

in a news release that the decision will have a rippling effect on ranchers, farmers and outdoor enthusiasts.

# Clatsop County withdraws from timber lawsuit

ASTORIA (AP) — Oregon's Clatsop County has dropped out of a class-action lawsuit involving more than a dozen counties seeking \$1.4 billion from the state over logging harvests on state-managed lands.

*The Daily Astorian* reported that the Clatsop

County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to withdraw from the suit.

The lawsuit alleges the state failed to meet an agreement to maximize timber profits.

Clatsop County's forestland represented 23 percent of the land cited in the lawsuit.

The counties rely on logging money from harvests on state lands and say they are owed \$1.4 billion.

In voting to leave the lawsuit, commissioners cited concerns from residents that the state would raise taxes if it lost the legal battle to pay counties the timber revenue they say they lost.

## BRIEFLY

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**AccuWeather.com Forecast**

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Freezing fog this morning	Very cold with periods of sun	Partly sunny and frigid	Some sun, then clouds and frigid	Rain or snow showers possible

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

14°	5°	16°	6°	18°	4°	19°	13°	40°	37°
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**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

16°	7°	17°	9°	19°	6°	17°	13°	36°	33°
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**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

**TEMPERATURE**

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 10°	-6°
Normals 41°	27°
Records 61° (1933)	-19° (1909)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.06"
Normal month to date	0.67"
Year to date	1.06"
Last year to date	0.32"
Normal year to date	0.67"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

**TEMPERATURE**

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 13°	-11°
Normals 41°	28°
Records 64° (1945)	-11° (2017)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.61"
Normal month to date	0.49"
Year to date	0.61"
Last year to date	0.21"
Normal year to date	0.49"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	7:33 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:35 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:29 p.m.
Moonset today	8:14 a.m.

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Sunshine mixing with some clouds today. Mostly cloudy tonight. Clouds and sun tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny and cold today; freezing fog across the north in the morning.

Western Washington: Sunshine mixing with some clouds today. Mostly cloudy tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Areas of freezing fog in the morning; partly sunny today. Mostly cloudy tonight.

Cascades: Mostly sunny today; cold. Mostly cloudy tonight, except partly cloudy in the south.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today; very cold in the interior mountains.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	42	29	c	45	30	c
Baker City	16	-1	s	17	1	c
Bend	24	6	s	25	9	c
Brookings	49	35	pc	49	36	pc
Burns	16	-5	s	19	-3	c
Enterprise	23	9	s	26	10	c
Eugene	33	22	s	36	22	pc
Heppner	19	5	s	20	8	pc
Hermiston	16	7	pc	17	9	c
John Day	32	15	s	33	15	pc
Klamath Falls	24	6	s	29	12	s
La Grande	25	11	s	27	10	c
Meacham	25	10	s	27	9	c
Medford	38	26	s	42	25	pc
Newport	42	30	s	45	30	pc
North Bend	49	32	s	50	33	pc
Ontario	20	8	s	19	5	c
Pasco	14	5	pc	17	7	c
Pendleton	14	5	pc	16	6	pc
Portland	30	19	s	32	18	pc
Redmond	25	3	s	23	3	c
Salem	31	17	s	33	19	pc
Spokane	18	10	pc	22	10	c
Ukiah	25	5	s	28	9	pc
Vancouver	32	20	s	34	21	pc
Walla Walla	14	7	pc	15	5	c
Yakima	21	5	pc	20	5	pc

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	37	15	s	36	13	s
Hong Kong	64	60	c	66	59	c
Jerusalem	53	42	pc	56	44	c
London	41	31	pc	42	32	pc
Mexico City	72	41	pc	70	42	pc
Moscow	22	18	c	30	28	sn
Paris	40	31	sn	40	30	sn
Rome	57	33	r	51	35	s
Seoul	30	13	s	25	13	s
Sydney	91	80	pc	89	70	sh
Tokyo	52	37	pc	44	32	c

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	NE 4-8	NE 3-6
Pendleton	N 4-8	N 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:** An ice storm will unfold from the southern Plains to part of the Ohio Valley today. Rain and thunder are in store farther to the south. Rain showers with mountain snow will push well inland over the Southwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 87° in Zapata, Texas Low -35° in Cotton, Minn.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	57	41	pc	57	39	r
Atlanta	73	52	pc	70	51	pc
Atlanta City	51	31	pc	37	32	sn
Baltimore	50	29	pc	33	30	i
Billings	26	10	s	27	12	pc
Birmingham	72	53	r	73	51	pc
Boise	23	10	s	22	8	c
Boston	43	18	pc	29	25	pc
Charleston, SC	77	52	pc	68	46	pc
Chicago, IL	44	36	c	44	37	sh
Chicago	26	21	pc	32	20	c
Cleveland	29	22	pc	33	24	sn
Dallas	62	51	t	65	56	r
Denver	36	23	c	41	24	pc
Detroit	29	21	pc	34	21	c
El Paso	72	50	pc	70	49	pc
Fairbanks	-2	-8	pc	2	-27	sn
Fargo	6	-2	s	14	1	s
Honolulu	83	67	pc	83	67	s
Houston	77	63	c	76	63	c
Indianapolis	36	27	pc	34	27	i
Jacksonville	74	52	pc	71	52	pc
Kansas City	22	21	i	31	25	i
Las Vegas	55	45	r	60	42	r
Little Rock	48	41	c	56	45	r
Los Angeles	62	48	pc	67	49	s
Louisville	42	35	r	46	36	r
Memphis	51	48	c	54	48	pc
Miami	84	68	pc	79	68	pc
Millwaukee	23	20	pc	33	16	c
Minneapolis	9	0	c	19	1	pc
Nashville	51	47	c	61	49	sh
New Orleans	74	56	pc	72	57	pc
New York City	46	27	pc	33	29	sn
Oklahoma City	34	29	i	40	35	i
Omaha	25	15	c	30	18	pc
Philadelphia	48	28	pc	33	23	sn
Phoenix	65	51	pc	66	50	pc
Portland, ME	39	8	s	24	14	pc
Providence	46	19	pc	31	23	pc
Raleigh	68	41	pc	48	43	c
Rapid City	21	7	pc	29	7	s
Reno	36	19	pc	34	21	pc
Sacramento	54	34	s	54	36	pc
St. Louis	33	31	i	36	31	c
Salt Lake City	33	20	sf	29	15	s
San Diego	61	50	sh	63	52	pc
San Francisco	54	41	s	55	45	pc
Seattle	38	28	s	41	30	c
Tucson	69	47	pc	63	43	c
Washington, DC	52	32	pc	37	33	i
Wichita	30	23	i	32	28	i

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