

# Plutonium detected in air at Hanford

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)—Radioactive plutonium and americium have been found in air samples collected where workers enter the secure area of the Hanford nuclear reservation in southeastern Washington, state health officials said Tuesday.

The air samples were collected by the state Department of Health on June 8 at the Rattlesnake Barricade just off of public Highway 240, *The Tri-City Herald* reported.

That was the day workers at the Plutonium Finishing Plant were ordered to take cover indoors because of an airborne release of radioactive particles during demolition of the highly contaminated facility.

Department of Health officials at a Hanford Advisory Board committee meeting in Richland on Tuesday said analysis results for the air samples were received Monday.

The levels of contamination in the samples were "very, very low," said John Martell, manager of the Radioactive Air Emissions Section of the Department of Health.

"The level is interesting from a regulatory point of view, but is not a health risk" to the public, said Mike Priddy, manager of the Environmental Sciences Section of the



In this June 13 file photo, the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant, right, stands adjacent to a dirt-covered rail tunnel, left, containing radioactive waste, amidst desert plants on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash. Radioactive plutonium and americium have been found in air samples collected where workers enter the secure area of the Hanford nuclear reservation health officials said Tuesday.

Department of Health. Hanford employees were told in a Tuesday memo that the Department of Health considers "that the amount detected is below levels that would be of concern for human health."

The Department of Energy and Department of Health are beginning an investigation and have not conclusively linked the airborne contamination to the Plutonium Finishing Plant

incident, officials said. "We are taking it seriously," said Tom Teynor, Department of Energy project director for the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

The samples were collected in an area where officials were not expecting to find airborne contamination.

The Rattlesnake Barricade is at least three miles from the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

# OHA Director Lynne Saxton resigns

By NICK BUDNICK  
Portland Tribune

Oregon Health Authority Director Lynne Saxton has resigned in the wake of news of her involvement in a plan to influence lawmakers by planting negative and misleading news about a local nonprofit health provider.

The *Portland Tribune* on Thursday broke the news of a communication plan greeted approvingly by Saxton that talked of finding an HIV patient to complain about FamilyCare, then connect him or her off the record with local reporters.

The plan called for using lawmakers and lobbyists from other organizations as intermediaries to spread negative news to disguise OHA's role, allowing state officials to appear neutral. An email described the strategy as creating an "information buzz" in the state Capitol so lawmakers wouldn't intervene in a rate dispute between FamilyCare and the state.

The sudden resignation, which was first reported earlier Tuesday evening by *The Oregonian*, came amid growing speculation in the health care industry over Saxton's future and questions about why Gov. Kate Brown had not responded to the *Tribune's* reporting either before or after publication.

Brown, however, answered those questions in a brief statement late Tuesday.

"Today, after discussion with Lynne Saxton, we have agreed that her resignation is in the best interests of the agency," Governor Brown said. "Lynne has led the Oregon Health Authority through its most challenging times and helped me ensure that every Oregonian has access to the care they need. She is known as a fighter for Oregon's values and I am proud of how she brought that level of commitment to the staff of OHA."

Other announcements will be made regarding OHA leadership in the "coming weeks," according to the statement.

The communications plan was prepared as FamilyCare and the state were doing battle in court over whether OHA is giving FamilyCare a fair rate of reimbursement for its care of low-income Medicaid patients. FamilyCare is one of 16 coordinated care organizations, or CCOs, set up by state reforms to act much like insurance plans or HMOs to provide low-income patients with health care under the Oregon Health Plan. FamilyCare has been the most vocal CCO, often accusing state officials of incompetence or seeking to do

the nonprofit harm, including in the pending litigation.

The communications plan called for getting reporters to write about FamilyCare and "look for opportunities to hurt their credibility in the news." The goal was to portray the nonprofit as "more concerned with the bottom line and increasing revenues than the health of Oregonians."

It called for highlighting the group's profit margins. Those margins appear larger than other CCOs in large part due to FamilyCare's simple corporate structure. In reality pretty much all the CCOs have enjoyed large profits, in part due to an influx of young and healthy patients under the Obamacare law. However the OHA communications plan did not call for providing that context.

*The Tribune* obtained the plan after having to file a records appeal with the Oregon Department of Justice over OHA's refusal to release the plan OHA then released more than 50 pages that had been improperly withheld.

Officials at first dismissed the plan, claiming it was not "fully implemented." Evolving talking points then said the plan was "not implemented," then said it was shelved because it does not meet OHA values.

## HEPPNER

# New wildfire reported on Umatilla National Forest

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — A new wildfire is burning on the Umatilla National Forest and threatening the Tupper Guard Station about 20 miles southeast of Heppner.

The Tupper Corral Fire was reported at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, and by 8 p.m. had grown to 15 acres. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Firefighters will work through the night building containment lines and protecting nearby structures. Resources assigned to the blaze include two bulldozers, six engines, one

crew and air attack.

"Fuels are extremely dry and firefighter and public safety remain our number one priority," said Brian Ebert, Umatilla National Forest Deputy Fire Staff. "Crews will assess the need for direct and in-direct attack strategies as the fire develops."

Fire danger is extreme in the Umatilla National Forest, and public restrictions on campfires and chainsaw use are in effect. For more information, contact any forest office or call the forest information hotline at 1-877-958-9663.

# ODFW warns that Willamette steelhead face extinction

PORTLAND (AP) — State officials warned Monday that if California sea lions continue feeding below Willamette Falls, they could push winter steelhead trout to the brink of extinction.

*The Oregonian/Oregon-Live* reports that the state Department of Fish and Wildlife highlighted the threat in a population feasibility study. Without federal intervention, they said, there's an 89 percent probability that at least one population of the iconic fish species will go extinct in the near future.

"It's pretty dire," Shaun Clements, the agency's senior fish policy adviser said in an interview from a Clackamas County park just down river from the state's largest waterfall, where sea lions have been setting up shop around the time the trout try to make their trek to spawning grounds up river. "If we don't deal with this near-term risk, there might not be fish," he said.

The state's report comes as two Pacific Northwest

congressional leaders are trying to give Oregon and Washington broader authority to kill sea lions at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. The bill would also apply to the sea lion logjam at Willamette Falls in Oregon City.

For years, lawmakers have pushed for more latitude to intervene at Bonneville and prevent sea lions from eating spring Chinook salmon there. But state officials say the threat to steelhead on the Willamette River now poses a much greater risk.

In 2017, just 512 native steelhead made it past Willamette Falls on their journey to spawning grounds on the North and South Santiam, Molalla and Calapooia rivers. That's the lowest winter steelhead run ever recorded, according to Clements.

In the early 2000s, the winter steelhead run was close to 15,000.

Authorities believe sea lions have consumed one-quarter of the 2017 steelhead run.

## 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

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255  
or go online to www.eastoregonian.com  
and click on 'Subscribe'

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 © 2017, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:  
For home delivery, vacation stops or delivery concerns: 1-800-522-0255

Didn't receive your paper? Call 1-800-522-0255  
before noon Tuesday through Friday  
or before 10 a.m. Saturday  
for same-day redelivery

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings off cover price
EZPay	\$14.50	41 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

\*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

### Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

### ADVERTISING

Advertising Director: Marissa Williams  
541-278-2669 • adirector@eastoregonian.com  
Advertising Services: Laura Jensen  
541-966-0806 • ljensen@eastoregonian.com  
Multimedia Consultants:  
• Danni Halladay  
541-278-2683 • dhalladay@eastoregonian.com  
• Jeanne Jewett  
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com  
• Dayle Stinson  
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com  
• Angela Treadwell  
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com  
• Audra Workman  
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

### Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678  
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com  
**NEWS**  
• To submit news tips and press releases: • call 541-966-0818 • fax 541-278-8314 • email news@eastoregonian.com  
• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.  
• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements  
• To submit a Letter to the Editor: mail to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.  
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

### COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen  
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>HOT</b>	<b>HOT</b>	<b>HOT</b>		
Very hot with hazy sun	Very hot with hazy sun	Very hot with hazy sunshine	Partly sunny and hot	Partial sunshine
<b>101° 65°</b>	<b>102° 66°</b>	<b>101° 68°</b>	<b>98° 67°</b>	<b>86° 55°</b>
<b>PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				
<b>105° 63°</b>	<b>105° 65°</b>	<b>104° 70°</b>	<b>101° 70°</b>	<b>88° 58°</b>
<b>HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				

### ALMANAC

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	99°	63°
Normals	89°	59°
Records	111° (1972)	40° (1893)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.00"  
Normal month to date 0.09"  
Year to date 11.30"  
Last year to date 7.34"  
Normal year to date 8.04"

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	99°	60°
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 6.59"  
Last year to date 4.98"  
Normal year to date 5.97"

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

### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Low clouds followed by some sun today; smoky. Low clouds tonight.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Hazy sunshine today; hot across the north and near the Cascades.

**Western Washington:** Smoky today. Hazy sun; low clouds, then perhaps some sun at the coast.

**Eastern Washington:** Hazy sun today; smoky. Mainly clear tonight. Hazy sun tomorrow.

**Cascades:** Hazy sun today. Hot; smoky in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight.

**Northern California:** A thunderstorm in spots today; low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	71	54	pc	70	56	c
Baker City	93	50	pc	93	50	pc
Bend	95	59	pc	95	60	pc
Brookings	64	55	pc	69	55	pc
Burns	89	50	pc	90	51	t
Enterprise	92	56	pc	92	57	pc
Eugene	93	56	pc	92	55	pc
Heppner	99	65	pc	99	66	pc
Hermiston	105	63	pc	105	65	pc
John Day	95	64	pc	94	64	pc
Klamath Falls	85	55	pc	90	55	pc
La Grande	96	58	pc	97	58	pc
Meacham	95	55	pc	95	56	pc
Medford	98	69	pc	98	68	pc
Newport	62	53	pc	62	52	c
North Bend	66	56	pc	66	56	c
Ontario	96	62	pc	95	62	pc
Pasco	104	62	pc	104	62	pc
Pendleton	101	65	pc	102	66	pc
Portland	93	63	pc	94	63	pc
Redmond	97	55	pc	96	56	pc
Salem	96	60	pc	96	61	pc
Spokane	96	66	pc	96	67	pc
Ukiah	95	53	pc	95	55	pc
Vancouver	94	60	pc	94	64	pc
Walla Walla	100	72	pc	100	72	pc
Yakima	103	65	pc	104	66	pc

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	84	71	c	90	73	pc
Hong Kong	94	84	t	94	85	t
Jerusalem	91	72	s	90	70	s
London	61	52	r	68	52	pc
Mexico City	75	58	pc	63	56	t
Moscow	72	54	pc	76	59	pc
Paris	67	53	t	68	54	sh
Rome	91	74	pc	90	72	pc
Seoul	92	75	pc	88	75	t
Sydney	69	48	s	75	59	pc
Tokyo	96	79	pc	88	77	t

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
<b>Boardman</b>	NNE 4-8	NE 3-6
<b>Pendleton</b>	NNW 4-8	NNW 4-8

### UV INDEX TODAY

1 4 6 6 4 1

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.

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2017

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Localized snowing will continue in the Deep South today. Locally heavy storms are in store from Kansas to the Dakotas and Minnesota. As storms dot the Rockies, the heat wave will linger in the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High 111°** in Needles, Calif. **Low 33°** in Bodie State Park, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	92	69	s	94	69	pc
Atlanta	80	70	c	83	71	t
Atlanta City	80	64	s	80	66	pc
Baltimore	82	61	s	83	65	pc
Billings	79	53	pc	83	56	pc
Birmingham	80	71	t	84	72	t
Boise	93	67	pc	92	67	pc
Boston	83	66	s	82	64	pc
Charleston, SC	84	72	t	87	73	t
Chicago	83	64	pc	77	65	pc
Chicago, WV	83	64	pc	83	67	pc
Cleveland	84	62	s	86	66	pc
Dallas	92	76	pc	96	79	pc
Denver	79	56	t	78	56	t
Detroit	85	63	pc	86	66	pc
El Paso	95	74	s	96	75	pc
Fairbanks	81	58	pc	69	51	c
Fargo	76	57	t	75	53	pc
Honolulu	90	76	sh	89	76	pc
Houston	90	77	t	91	77	pc
Indianapolis	82	62	s	84	67	pc
Jacksonville	88	75	t	88	74	t
Kansas City	80	65	pc	82	65	pc
Las Vegas	107	83	s	107	83	s
Little Rock	86	71	pc	88	73	t
Los Angeles	86	67	pc	86	66	pc
Louisville	86	67	pc	87	70	pc
Memphis	82	72	pc	89	73	t
Miami	92	79	t	90	79	t
Millwaukee	81	65	pc	81	65	pc
Minneapolis	79	65	t	77	61	sh
Nashville	86	70	pc	87	71	pc
New Orleans	89	77	t	89	76	t
New York City	82	67	pc	82	67	pc
St. Louis	87	70	pc	93	70	t
Omaha	82	65	t	82	60	pc
Philadelphia	84	65	s	85	67	pc
Portland	111	88	s	108	87	pc
Portland, ME	82	60	s	82	61	pc
Providence	82	62	s	83	61	pc
Raleigh	85	66	pc	84	69	t
Rapid City	81	51	pc	78	53	pc
Reno	90	61	pc	93	66	pc
Sacramento	91	62	s	94	61	s
St. Louis	86	68	pc	87	71	pc
Salt Lake City	90	68	pc	92	70	t
San Diego	79	69	pc	79	70	pc
San Francisco	71	60	pc	71	59	pc
Seattle	90	62	pc	90	61	pc
Tucson	105	78	s	101	78	pc
Washington, DC	85	67	s	85		