

Pruitt to meet privately with chemical industry execs

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration’s top environmental regulator is set to speak privately to chemical industry executives next week during a conference at a luxury oceanfront golf resort.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is listed as the featured speaker at a board meeting of the American Chemistry Council, a group that has lobbied against stricter regulations for chemical manufacturers. The three-day conference is being held at The Sanctuary resort on Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

Council spokeswoman Anne Kolton said Pruitt’s speech will not be open to the public or the news media. Admission to the members-only event where Pruitt is speaking ranges between \$7,500 and \$2,500, depending on sponsorship level. Rooms at the resort are being offered to conference attendees at a discounted rate of \$389 a night, not including taxes and fees.

Travel and lodging expenses for Pruitt, four aides and his security team will be borne by taxpayers.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox declined to provide an estimate of the total cost for the trip, but said the government employees would be staying for \$135 a night, within the limit allowed under federal travel reimbursement rules.

Registration fees for Pruitt and his staff were waived since the EPA administrator is an invited speaker. The government employees will not be participating in the golf events scheduled as part of the conference, Wilcox said.

Corporate members of the American Chemistry Council include such industry giants Dow Chemical, DuPont, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Arkema.

A Republican lawyer who previously served as the attorney general of Oklahoma, Pruitt railed against federal environmental



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File
In this June 2 file photo, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt speaks to the media during the daily briefing in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington. Pruitt is set to speak privately to chemical industry executives next week during a conference at a luxury oceanfront golf resort.

Pruitt names more industry insiders to EPA science boards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency has named a slate of new members to federal science advisory boards, including several who work for chemical and fossil-fuel interests.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his appointments Friday, after saying he would block scientists who receive federal research grants from serving. That change ruled out many highly qualified experts from colleges and universities, who the EPA chief said had potential conflicts of interest.

Instead, Pruitt’s new list features members who are more likely to reflect industry-friendly views. They include executives and scientists working for electricity companies, pharmaceutical companies, a chemical industry trade group, a pesticide manufacturer and the oil industry. The list includes several college professors and environmental regulators from conservative-leaning states.

regulations he considers too restrictive on the petrochemical industry. Following his appointment to lead EPA, Pruitt has repeatedly intervened to reverse or delay implementation of regulations opposed by chemical and pesticide makers.

Pruitt overruled the recommendation of his agency’s own scientists to ban the Dow

A Republican lawyer, Pruitt said his goal is to introduce more diverse viewpoints and backgrounds among those on the 22 boards, which advise EPA on a wide range of issues including drinking water standards and air pollution limits.

Pruitt named Paul Gilman as the new chair of EPA’s Board of Scientific Counselors. Gilman is a former EPA official who now works as a senior vice president at Covanta, a company that operates plants that generate electricity by incinerating waste.

Gilman replaces Deborah Swackhamer, a retired professor who taught environmental health sciences at the University of Minnesota. She said she was not informed of the change by EPA, but learned about it through media reports.

“All of this is so very unusual, and will really hurt scientific integrity at EPA,” said Swackhamer, who does not benefit from government grants and will remain a member of the panel until her term expires. “Only penalizing academic researchers will result in a very biased board.”

pesticide chlorpyrifos after federal scientists concluded it can interfere with the brain development of fetuses and infants. Pruitt also delayed by until at least 2019 Obama-era rules that would have tightened safety requirements for companies storing large quantities of dangerous chemicals after the industry opposed the regulations.

Though past EPA administrators have met privately with industry representatives, Pruitt has crisscrossed the country to meet with top executives of industries his agency regulates. Unlike past EPA leaders, Pruitt’s speaking engagements are typically disclosed only after the fact and are rarely open to the public.

U.S. report: Global warming stronger than ever, mostly man-made

WASHINGTON (AP) — A massive U.S. report concludes the evidence of global warming is stronger than ever, contradicting a favorite talking point of top Trump administration officials, who downplay humans’ role in climate change.

The report released Friday is one of two scientific assessments required every four years. A draft showing how warming affects the U.S. was also published.

Despite fears by some scientists and environmental advocates, David Fahey of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and several authors said there was no political interference or censoring of the 477-page final report.

“A lot of what we’ve been learning over the last

four years suggests the possibility that things may have been more serious than we think,” said Robert Kopp of Rutgers University, one of dozens of scientists inside and outside the government who wrote the reports.

Since 1900, Earth has warmed by 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) and seas have risen by 8 inches. Heat waves, downpours and wildfires have become frequent.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt have repeatedly said carbon dioxide isn’t the primary contributor to global warming.

It’s “extremely likely” — meaning with 95 to 100 percent certainty — that global warming is man-made, mostly from the spewing of carbon dioxide

into the atmosphere from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, scientists concluded.

“Over the last century, there are no convincing alternative explanations,” the report said.

Scientists calculated that human contribution to warming since 1950 is between 92 percent and 123 percent. It’s more than 100 percent on one end, because some natural forces — such as volcanoes and orbital cycle — are working to cool Earth, but are being overwhelmed by the effects of greenhouse gases, said study co-author Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech.

“This period is now the warmest in the history of modern civilization,” she said.

For the first time, scien-

tists highlighted a dozen “tipping points” of potential dangers that could happen from warming, things that Hayhoe said “keep me up at night.”

They include the slowing down of the giant Atlantic Ocean circulation system that could dramatically warp weather worldwide, much stronger El Ninos, major decreases in ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, which would spike sea level rise, and massive release of methane and carbon dioxide from thawing permafrost that could turbo-charge warming.

Researchers did not provide an estimate of how likely tipping points would occur, but “there is certainly some chance of some of these things happening,” Fahey said.

OBITUARIES

Martha Elizabeth Ruebush Lanham

Walla Walla
October 8, 1920 - October 30, 2017

Martha Elizabeth Ruebush Lanham, the daughter of George Yates Ruebush and Halley Whaley Ruebush, was born October 8, 1920, in Macomb, Illinois. She was raised on a farm north of Good Hope, Illinois, and graduated from Good Hope High School in 1938. In 1942, she graduated from what is now Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois, with a BS in business education. She taught in high schools in Augusta, Illinois; Walsenburg, Colorado; Hermiston, Oregon; and Barre, Vermont.

When teaching in Hermiston, she met her future husband, William “Bill” Lanham, who owned the local Western Auto store. They were married on September 4, 1948, in Macomb, Illinois. She did bookkeeping for their business while raising a family and later owned a gift shop, “Martha’s Door.”

Martha was an active community member and volunteered for numerous organizations over the years. She was a member of PEO for over 50 years. She was a founding and active member of Faith Presbyterian Church. She expressed her artistic nature in numerous ways, including painting, spinning and dyeing, felt making, quilting, and interior decorating. She faithfully arranged the church flowers. She was an active person over the years and appreciated nature, whether hiking, rafting, or sitting in her garden watching the birds. She looked forward to yoga classes through Blue Mountain Community College.

Always curious and independent, she enjoyed traveling both nationally and internationally.

After Bill died in 1993, Martha lived alone and proudly maintained her home and yard until moving to Wheatland Village in

Walla Walla, Wash., in April 2015. She lived in her own apartment until her death on October 30, 2017, following a massive stroke.

She is survived by daughter, Rebecca Hendricks (Scott) of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; son Ray Lanham

(Lynn) of Salem, Ore., and daughter Sara Lanham of Piedmont, Calif. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, brother Kenneth Ruebush (Martha) of Hendersonville, N.C., and nieces, nephews, and cousins. She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and her brothers Max and Mervin Ruebush.

Memorials may be made to CV Chapter PEO Scholarship Fund, Faith Presbyterian Church, Walla Walla Community Hospice, or a charity of choice c/o Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 3, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 1005 S.E. Ninth St., Hermiston, OR 97838. Burial followed at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please sign the online condolence book at burns-mortuaryhermiston.com

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in care of arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

Darrel Moon

Milton-Freewater

Feb. 23, 1938 - Nov. 2, 2017

Darrel Moon, 79, of Milton-Freewater died Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017, at his home. He was born Feb. 23, 1938. Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home in Milton-Freewater in charge of arrangements.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

BATES, MEL — Memorial service a 2 p.m. at Burns Mortuary, 336 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

BEACH, MARIE — Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 800 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

CUPP, TOM SR. — Celebration of life from noon to 3 p.m. at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds Roy Raley Room, 1205 S.W. Court Ave.

ENOS, LORRAINE — Funeral services at the Hermiston Seventh-day Adventist Church, 855 W. Highland Ave.

EVANS, SKYHAWK — Celebration of life service at 9 a.m., followed by lunch at 10:30 a.m., at Mission Longhouse.

JEFFERS, MARION — Celebration of life memorial service at 11 a.m. at Pilot Rock Baptist Church, 585 S.W. Birch St. A reception will follow.

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

No services scheduled

MONDAY, NOV. 6

MCDONALD, BETTY — Funeral mass at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 525 N. Gale St., Heppner. Concluding service and burial will follow at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

TUESDAY, NOV. 7

No services scheduled

OBITUARY POLICY

The East Oregonian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Expanded death notices will be published at no charge. These include information about services. Obituaries and notices can be submitted online at www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@eastoregonian.com, by fax to 541-276-8314, placed via the funeral home or in person at the East Oregonian office. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 1-800-522-0255, ext. 221.

MEETINGS

For a complete listing of regional events, visit eastoregonian.com

MONDAY, NOV. 6
STOKES LANDING SENIOR CENTER BOARD, 6 p.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. (Karen 541-922-3137)
HEPPNER PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Heppner City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Heppner. (541-676-9618)
MILTON-FREEWATER PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library Albee Room, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave., Milton-Freewater. 6:30 p.m. study session, 7 p.m. regular meeting. (541-938-5531)

TUESDAY, NOV. 7
PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT WORK SESSION, 8 a.m., Pendleton School District office, 107 N.W. 10th St., Pendleton. (541-276-6711)
UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT, 1:30 p.m., Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle, Boardman. (Shawn Halsey 541-966-3774)
WESTON LIBRARY BOARD, 5:30 p.m., Weston Public Library, 108 E. Main St., Weston. (541-566-2378)
IRRIGON PLANNING COMMISSION, 6 p.m., Irrigon City Hall, 500 N.E. Main St., Irrigon. (541-922-3047)
MEACHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 6 p.m., Meacham Fire Department, Mea-

cham. (541-786-2069)
BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Boardman City Hall, 200 City Center Circle, Boardman. (541-481-9252)
STANFIELD CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Stanfield City Hall council chambers, 160 S. Main St., Stanfield. (541-449-3831)
UMATILLA CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Umatilla City Hall council chambers, 700 Sixth St., Umatilla. (541-922-3226)
PILOT ROCK CITY COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Pilot Rock City Hall council chambers, 143 W. Main St., Pilot Rock. (541-443-2811)
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8
UKIAH SCHOOL DISTRICT, 8 a.m., Ukiah Community School, 201 Hill St., Ukiah. (541-427-3731)
MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 9 a.m., Irrigon Public Library, 200 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. (541-676-9061)
MILTON-FREEWATER CEMETERY MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 3, 12 p.m., Milton-Freewater Golf Course restaurant, 301 Catherine St., Milton-Freewater. (541-938-5531)
PORT OF MORROW COMMISSION, 1:30 p.m., Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. (Dori Drago 541-481-7678)
PENDLETON FAÇADE COMMITTEE, 3:30 p.m., Pendleton City Hall community development conference room, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (Julie Chase 541-966-0204)
RIVERSIDE STATE COUNCIL, 5:30 p.m., Riverside High School library, 210 N.E. Boardman Ave., Boardman. (541-676-9128)
WESTON CITY COUNCIL, 6

p.m., Memorial Hall, 210 E. Main St., Weston. (541-566-3313)
BLUE MOUNTAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION, 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College, 311 N. Columbia Ave., Milton-Freewater. (Shannon Franklin 541-278-5951)
ATHENA PLANNING COMMISSION, 6:30 p.m., Athena City Hall, 215 S. Third St., Athena. (541-566-3862)
CONDON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Condon City Hall, 128 S. Main St., Condon. (541-384-2711)
CONDON SCHOOL DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Condon Grade School, 220 S. East St., Condon. (541-384-2441)
HERMISTON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)
STANFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Stanfield School District office, 1120 N. Main St., Stanfield. (541-449-3305)
UMATILLA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, 7 p.m., Fire Station 21, 320 S. First St., Hermiston. (Reta Larson 541-567-8822)
HELIH SCHOOL DISTRICT, 7:30 p.m., Helix School library, 120 Main St., Helix. (541-457-2175)
THURSDAY, NOV. 9
UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 12 p.m., TBA, Boardman. (Julie Spratling 541-457-8045)
BOARDMAN RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, 1 p.m., Boardman Fire Department, 300 S. Wilson Lane, Boardman. (541-481-3473)
HERMISTON PARKS & REC-

REACTION COMMISSION, 5:30 p.m., Hermiston City Hall, 180 N.E. Second St., Hermiston. (541-567-5521)
ATHENA CITY COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Athena City Hall, 215 S. Third St., Athena. (541-566-3862)
UMATILLA SCHOOL DISTRICT, 7 p.m., Umatilla School District office, 1001 Sixth St., Umatilla. (541-922-6500)
PENDLETON PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 p.m., Pendleton City Hall, 500 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. (Jutta Haliewicz 541-966-0240)
FRIDAY, NOV. 10
No meetings scheduled

PENDLETON'S CRAFT CANNABIS BOUTIQUE

1733 SW Court Ave, Pendleton

Flower
Topicals
Edibles
Concentrates
and more

Open 7 days

A week
8-10
Mon-Sat
10-10
Sunday

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Adults 21+ • Keep Out of Reach of Children • Do not drive while under the influence of Marijuana