

# Work to demolish nuclear weapons plant to resume in September

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS  
Associated Press

Work to demolish a former nuclear weapons production factory at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation may resume in September, about six months after it was halted when workers were exposed to radioactive particles, the U.S. Department of Energy said Thursday.

The agency will implement extra safety measures for workers demolishing the Plutonium Finishing Plant at the plant near Richland. The plant was involved in producing much of the plutonium for the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Hanford officials issued a report in late March that said a total of 42 Hanford workers inhaled or ingested radioactive particles when they were exposed during contamination events in June and December of last year. Radioactive contamination was also found outside plant offices and inside two dozen vehicles, the report said.

Demolition work was halted. Experts studied the dangerous work, looking for ways to make it safer for employees and the environment.

"Right now we are planning for a September resumption on demolition," said Karen Wiemelt, a manager at CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company, the private contractor performing the work for the Energy Department. She predicted demolition could be completed by next June.

Experts have identified techniques to make the work safer, including better and more frequent monitoring for radioactive contamination, better ventilation, minimizing waste piles and making sure that materials known as fixatives were used according to manufacturers' specifications, Wiemelt said.

Erecting a big containment tent over the plant site was rejected as too complicated and not worth the effort, she said.

"It would take us literally a couple of years to

design and procure and build a tent," she said. "It makes far more sense to proceed very deliberately with enhanced controls."

Hanford is the nation's most polluted nuclear weapons production complex, and the complicated cleanup costs the federal treasury around \$2 billion a year. The cleanup is expected to last for decades, and it involves buildings, 177 underground nuclear waste storage tanks and other facilities on a site that is half the size of Rhode Island.

The March report concluded that Hanford officials placed too much reliance on air-monitoring systems that failed to pick up the spread of radioactive particles. Managers of the private contractor were also caught between maintaining safety and trying to make progress toward project deadlines, according to the report.

Risk escalated as walls of the plutonium plant were knocked down and the rubble was stored in piles. Fixatives sprayed on the rubble to keep radioactive particles from blowing away may not have been effective, the report said.

The amount of radiation involved in the contamination incidents was low — even lower than naturally occurring levels of radiation people are exposed to in everyday life, the report said. But the project was not supposed to expose workers to any additional radiation. The amounts of radiation that have escaped are considered too small by state experts to pose a health risk. All the contamination was found on lands that are closed to the public.

Hanford was created during the Manhattan Project in World War II and made the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, that effectively ended the war. The Plutonium Finishing Plant was constructed a few years later. The plant took liquid plutonium and shaped it into hockey puck-sized disks for use in nuclear warheads.

Demolition on the plant began in late 2016.

# U.S. economy grew at a brisk 4.1 percent rate last quarter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy accelerated last quarter at an annual rate of 4.1 percent, the government estimated Friday, as consumers spent tax-cut money, businesses stepped up investment and exporters rushed to ship their goods ahead of retaliatory tariffs.

President Donald Trump said he was thrilled with what he called an "amazing" growth rate — the strongest quarterly figure since 2014 — and said it wasn't "a one-time shot." But most economists took issue with that forecast, saying the pace of growth in the April-June quarter won't likely last in the months ahead.

The Commerce Department said the gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the United States — posted its best showing since a 4.9 percent annual increase in the third quarter of 2014.

Trump, who has repeatedly attacked the Obama administration's economic record, had pledged during the 2016 presidential race to double annual economic growth to 4 percent or more. And at a White House appearance Friday with his top economic advisers and Vice President Mike Pence,

the president boasted that "we've accomplished an economic turnaround of historic proportions."

He predicted that the economy would fare "extraordinarily well" in the current July-September quarter and that growth for 2018 as a whole would be the best in 13 years.

But forecasters cautioned that the April-June pace was due mainly, though not entirely, to temporary factors. Most analysts are forecasting that growth this year could reach 3 percent, which would be the best since a 3.5 percent gain in 2005. But many think the annual 4.1 percent growth rate last quarter is likely the high point. Many think annual growth in the second half of this year will be 2.5 percent to 3 percent.

"We believe quarter two will represent a growth peak as the boost from tax cuts fades, global growth moderates, inflation rises, the Fed tightens monetary policy and trade protectionism looms over the economy," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist.

The latest GDP figure was nearly double the 2.2 percent growth rate in the first quarter.

## OBITUARIES

### Fred C. Searcey

Everett, Wash.  
February 13, 1927 - July 23, 2018

Fred C. Searcey, 91, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2018 in Everett, Wash.

Fred was born on February 13, 1927, to William (Tom) Searcey and Catherine Lynch Searcey in Pendleton, Ore. He attended school there, graduating from Pendleton High School in 1945. After graduation he served in the Navy.

After his honorable discharge, Fred returned to Pendleton and married Mary Kathleen Kopp of Pilot Rock, Ore. They raised their four children in Pendleton, Woodland, Wash., and Walla Walla, Wash. He was active in the Catholic church, Scouting, and a member of the Elks Lodge. He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Fred worked for Pacific Power and Light Company for 27 years, beginning as meter reader, then a lineman, and the last half of his career as substation operator until his retirement in 1983.

Fred was remarried in 1980 to Rose Marie Gutschmidt, and they spent many adventure-filled years together before her passing in 2012. He was able to

fulfill his dream of building homes, and spent time traveling, climbing mountains, backpacking, canoeing, skiing, and snowshoeing. He loved to be the life of the party.

Fred is survived by his daughters, Mary (Tom) Dauchy of Walla Walla, Wash., Susan Singh of Anchorage, Alaska, and Sally (Mitch) Mullanix of Everett, Wash., and his grandchildren Kathy Cornejo, Melissa Fortin, David Searcey and Kacey Mullanix, as well as six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Searcey, granddaughter Meagan Mullanix, his parents, and sisters Eva and Juanita.

A funeral mass will be held for him at 11:00 a.m. on August 3, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Pendleton Ore., followed by a luncheon. The committal service will be held at 1:15 p.m. at Olney Cemetery. Please share memories at [www.beckstributecenter.com](http://www.beckstributecenter.com).

In lieu of flowers, please honor Fred by doing something fun, having a good laugh, or raising a toast to friends.

Sláinte, Dad!



Searcey

## 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](http://www.eastoregonian.com/obituaryform), by email to [obits@eastoregonian.com](mailto: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.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Alan S. 'Al' Grossmiller

Hermiston  
June 13, 1920 - July 20, 2018

Alan S. "Al" Grossmiller, 98, of Hermiston, died Friday, July 20, 2018, in Hermiston. He was born June 13, 1920, in Oregon City. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Stanfield Baptist Church. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

### Beatrice J. 'Bea' Luciani

Echo  
Feb. 6, 1924 - July 25, 2018

Beatrice J. "Bea" Luciani, 94, of Echo died Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in Hermiston. She was born Feb. 6, 1924, in Watertown, South Dakota. A funeral service will be held Thursday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 485 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. Burial will be at the Echo Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com)

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### SATURDAY, JULY 28

**BARNES, ROY** — Memorial and celebration of life at 4 p.m. at Gardner Funeral Home, 1270 N. Main Ave., White Salmon, Wash.

**DUFF, ETHEL** — Memorial service at 1:30 p.m. at the Des Moines First Baptist Church, 22415 19th Ave. S., Des Moines, Wash.

**HARMON, DICK** — Memorial ride beginning at 10 a.m. at Riverside Park, 3501 N. Spruce St., La Grande; motorcycles, classic cars and other vehicles welcome. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall, 301 Fir St., La Grande.

**LEMMON, BOB** — Celebration of life service at 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Elks Lodge, 480 E. Main St. Bring stories and photos to share.

**MAY, MARK** — Celebration of life at 2 p.m. at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, Mission.

**RANSOM, FRANK** — Services from noon to 2 p.m. at Leaven Community Salt & Light Church, 5431 N.E. 20th St., Portland.

**WICKS, DORIS** — Funeral service at 11 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 555 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

### SUNDAY, JULY 29

**DANIELSON, VERNA** — Celebration of life from 2-4 p.m. at Park Plaza, 1400 Dalles Military Road, Walla Walla. Food, drinks and fellowship will follow.

## LOTTERY

**Thursday, July 26, 2018**  
4 p.m.: 7-3-9-2  
7 p.m.: 2-3-4-9  
10 p.m.: 2-3-9-6

**Lucky Lines**  
1-6-12-14-19-23-25-30  
Estimated jackpot: \$24,000  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 0-2-6-0

**Friday, July 27, 2018**  
**Pick 4**  
1 p.m.: 0-4-8-2

# World gazes at total lunar eclipse, longest we'll see this century



Harald Tittel/dpa via AP

The moon turns red during a total lunar eclipse in Bernkastel-Kues, Germany on Friday. Skywatchers around much of the world are looking forward to a complete lunar eclipse that will be the longest this century.

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Curiosity and awe have greeted a complete lunar eclipse, the longest one of this century and visible in much of the world.

The so-called "blood moon," when it turns a deep red, was visible at different times in Australia, Africa, Asia, Europe and South America when the sun, Earth and moon lined up perfectly, casting Earth's shadow on the moon.

The total eclipse lasted 1 hour and 43 minutes, with the entire event lasting closer to four hours.

Rio de Janeiro's spectators cheered when the blood moon emerged from the fog. Hundreds of people watched at a fort overlooking the iconic Copacabana beach and Sugarloaf Mountain. The local planetarium set up telescopes for astrology fans.

"These telescopes are fantastic. It's one thing to see pictures of the planets in a book and another to see it in real life," said Ana Selma Ferreira, a 46-year old lawyer who brought her children to the spectacle.

## LET'S SHIRUP SOME FUN!

August 7 - 11

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Tues. • Aug. 7 • 9pm  
Sawyer Brown

Wildhorse  
Resort & Casino  
Main Stage  
at the Fair

Wed. • Aug. 8 • 9pm  
Ned LeDoux  
Brewers Grade Band opener for Ned LeDoux

Thurs. • Aug. 9 • 9pm  
Skid Row

Fri. • Aug. 10 • 7pm  
Rebeldes De La Sierra - 7:00PM • Tormenta De Durango - 8:00PM  
Grupo Fatal - 9:15PM • La Noblesa De Aguajilla - 10:30PM  
Los Canarios De Michoacan - 11:45PM

Sat. • Aug. 11 • 9pm  
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