

Federal judge blocks release of blueprints for 3D-printed guns

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday stopped the release of blueprints to make untraceable and undetectable 3D-printed plastic guns as President Donald Trump questioned whether his administration should have agreed to allow the plans to be posted online.

The company behind the plans, Austin, Texas-based Defense Distributed, had reached a settlement with the federal government in June allowing it to make the plans for the guns available for download on Wednesday.

The restraining order from U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik in Seattle puts that plan on hold for now. "There is a possibility of irreparable harm because of the way these guns can be made," he said.

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson called the ruling "a complete, total victory."

"We were asking for a nationwide temporary restraining order putting a halt to this outrageous decision by the federal government to allow these 3D downloadable guns to be available around our country and around the world. He granted that relief," Ferguson said at a news conference after the hearing. "That is significant."

Eight Democratic attorneys general had filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to block the settlement. They also sought the restraining order, arguing the 3D guns would be a safety risk.

Congressional Democrats have urged President Donald Trump to reverse the decision to publish the plans. Trump said Tuesday that he's "looking into" the idea, saying making 3D plastic guns available to the public "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Trump tweeted that he has already spoken with the National Rifle Association about the downloadable directions a Texas company wants to provide for people to make 3D-printed guns. The guns are made of a hard plastic and are simple to assemble, easy to conceal and difficult to trace.

"We don't agree with President Trump very much," Washington state Assistant Attorney General Jeff Rupert told Lasnik, "but when he tweeted 'this doesn't make much sense,' that's something we agree with."

After a yearslong court battle, the State Department in late June settled the case against Defense Distributed.

The settlement, which took gun-control advocates by surprise, allowed the company to resume posting blueprints for the hard-plastic guns at the end of July. Those plans were put on hold by the Seattle judge's decision.

During the hearing in Seattle, Eric Soskin,



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP, File

In this May 2013, file photo, Cody Wilson, the founder of Defense Distributed, shows a plastic handgun made on a 3D-printer at his home in Austin, Texas.

a lawyer for the U.S. Justice Department, said they reached the settlement to allow the company to post the material online because the regulations were designed to restrict weapons that could be used in war, and the online guns were no different from the weapons that could be bought in a store.

Since the weapons "did not create a military advantage," he told the judge, "how could the government justify regulating the data?"

But Rupert said a restraining order would keep the plans away from people who have learned about the technology and want to use it to get around gun laws.

Hours before the restraining order was issued, Democrats sounded the alarm, warning about "ghost guns" that can avoid detection and pose a deadly hazard.

The company's website had said downloads would begin Wednesday, but blueprints for at least one gun — a plastic pistol called the Liberator — have been posted on the site since Friday. A lawyer for the company said he didn't know how many blueprints had been downloaded since then.

Outrage over the administration decision is putting gun control back into the election-year political debate, but with a high-tech twist.

The president seemed to express surprise. He said on Twitter he was looking into the idea of a company providing plans to the public for printing guns, and he said it "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Democrats agreed and said Trump had the power to stop it.

Some Republicans also expressed concern.

"Even as a strong supporter of the Second Amendment — this is not right," Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski tweeted, linking to a news story on the guns.

The NRA said in a statement that "anti-gun politicians" and some members of the news media wrongly claim that 3D printing technology "will allow for the production and widespread proliferation of undetectable plastic firearms."

In truth, "undetectable plastic guns have been illegal for 30 years," said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the NRA's political arm. A federal law passed in 1988 — crafted with NRA support — bars the manufacture, sale or possession of an undetectable firearm.

Trump spokesman Hogan Gidley made much the same point, saying the administration supports the law against wholly plastic guns, including those made with a 3D printer.

But Democrats called the law weak and said gun users can get around it by using weapons with a removable metal block that the gun doesn't need in order to function.

Democrats filed legislation that would prohibit the publication of a digital file online that allows a 3D printer to manufacture a firearm. Democrats also filed a separate bill to require that all guns have at least one non-removable component made of metal so they can be discovered by metal detectors.

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.

BRIEFLY

Oregon children left alone unhurt in gas explosion

LA GRANDE (AP) — Oregon police say a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old survived an explosion that happened when they were left alone and tried to make popcorn in a microwave located above a gas range.

The children were taken to a hospital for evaluation and found to have no injuries.

Their parents Stephen and Clarissa Seed were arrested after Sunday's explosion on neglect charges. The Observer newspaper reports they posted bail. It's unknown if they have a lawyer.

The explosion blew out a front window and tore apart a back door. The children fled and took refuge inside a parked vehicle.

Police say the parents told investigators they had been looking for a lost dog for two hours. The dog was at the house when responders arrived.

The children were taken into protective custody.

Man shoots 2 cougars near chicken coop east of Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office says a Corbett man shot and killed two cougars that were near a chicken coop.

Sgt. Brandon White says Oregon State Police and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have been notified, but he doesn't anticipate any charges because the man was defending livestock.

The shooter, David Callister, tells KGW-TV he was walking to the trailer where he stays early Tuesday when he almost stepped on the tail of a cougar that was under his pickup. The cougar displayed no fear.

He returned with a rifle and found a cougar starting to tear into the coop.

Callister says he fired warning shots before killing the cougars.

Salem task force renews effort to clear city sidewalks

SALEM (AP) — A proposed ordinance that would ban people from sitting or lying down on Salem sidewalks has been revived.

The proposal by the city's Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force also seeks to prohibit people from leaving personal items on sidewalks, the Statesman Journal reported Monday.

The task force was created last October after the city council rejected a similar proposal. City officials did not say why they decided to reintroduce the proposed ban.

A report by the task force cites problems observed by downtown businesses and shoppers including public urination and defecation; homeless people using customer restrooms to bathe and behaviors such as drug use and littering.

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AccuWeather Forecast

TODAY **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY** **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

Hot with sunshine Breezy and nice with sunshine Mostly sunny and pleasant Mostly sunny and pleasant Partly sunny and pleasant

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
97° 63° 89° 57° 81° 56° 83° 59° 88° 59°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
100° 65° 92° 60° 86° 56° 87° 57° 91° 52°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 96° 66°

Normals 90° 60°

Records 108° (1971) 42° (1933)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.37"

Year to date 6.49"

Last year to date 11.30"

Normal year to date 7.95"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 100° 63°

Normals 90° 60°

Records 106° (2015) 40° (1933)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.22"

Year to date 5.10"

Last year to date 6.59"

Normal year to date 5.92"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:38 a.m.

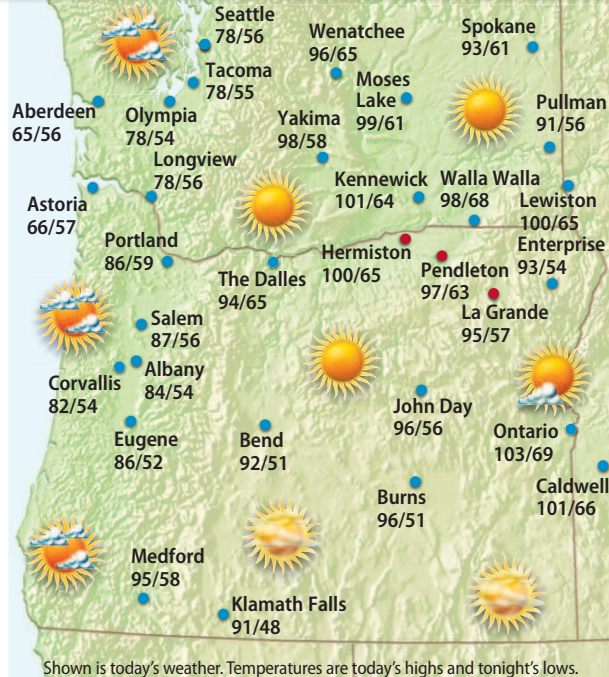
Sunset tonight 8:24 p.m.

Moonrise today 10:58 p.m.

Moonset today 10:21 a.m.

Last New First Full

Aug 4 Aug 11 Aug 18 Aug 26



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today; however, low clouds followed by sunshine in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Hot today with sunshine; however, hazy sun in the south. Mainly clear tonight.

Western Washington: Clouds and sun in central parts today; cloudy at the coast. Sunshine across the south.

Eastern Washington: Sunny today; however, some clouds in the north. Clear tonight.

Cascades: Pleasant today with sunshine. Clear tonight; however, partly cloudy across the north.

Northern California: Clouds, then sun at the coast today; hot in central parts. Hazy elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

Today Thu. Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Astoria 66 57 pc 65 57 sh

Baker City 97 51 s 91 46 s

Bend 92 51 s 85 45 s

Brookings 62 51 pc 65 52 pc

Burns 96 51 s 90 42 s

Enterprise 93 54 s 86 48 s

Eugene 86 52 s 77 52 s

Heppner 94 62 s 86 55 s

Hermiston 100 65 s 92 60 s

John Day 96 56 s 89 54 s

Klamath Falls 91 48 pc 85 43 pc

La Grande 95 57 s 88 51 s

Meacham 92 51 s 85 49 s

Medford 95 58 pc 89 55 pc

Newport 62 55 pc 63 55 pc

North Bend 65 57 pc 67 56 c

Ontario 103 69 s 99 63 s

Pasco 100 61 s 93 58 s

Pendleton 97 63 s 89 57 s

Portland 86 59 s 75 60 pc

Redmond 95 48 s 87 42 s

Salem 87 56 s 78 57 pc

Spokane 93 61 s 86 55 s

Ukiah 92 49 s 84 46 s

Vancouver 85 58 s 73 59 pc

Walla Walla 98 68 s 91 62 s

Yakima 98 58 s 89 54 s

WINDS

(in mph) Today Thursday

Boardman WSW 8-16 WSW 10-20

Pendleton W 7-14 W 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

2 4 8 8 4 2

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

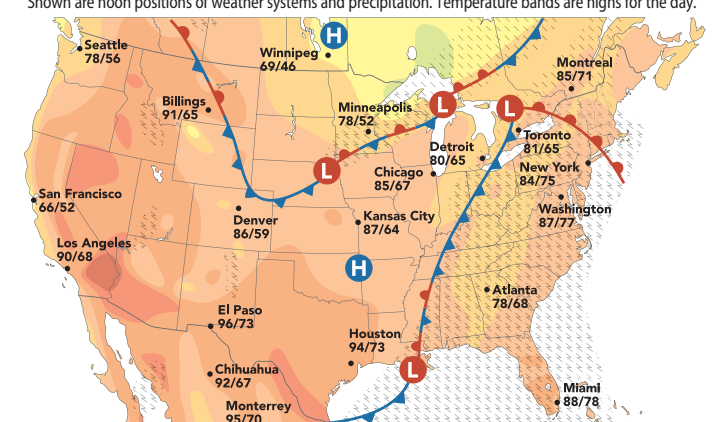
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High, 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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:

Flooding downpours and locally gusty storms will extend from the Gulf coast to the interior Northeast today. A strip of storms will affect the Upper Midwest. A few storms will dot the Rockies and deserts.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 113° in Thermal, Calif. Low 31° in Gothic, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

Today Thu. Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Albuquerque 93 68 t 92 69 t

Atlanta 78 68 t 77 69 t

Memphis 85 67 pc 88 69 s

Miami 88 78 t 90 79 t

Milwaukee 84 65 pc 74 60 t

Minneapolis 78 52 t 77 60 pc

Nashville 83 70 pc 84 69 t

New Orleans 87 75 t 89 74 t

New York City 84 75 t 87 75 t

Oklahoma City 87 65 s 91 66 pc

Omaha 87 63 s 87 69 s

Philadelphia 87 76 t 89 74 t

Phoenix 109 90 pc 108 88 pc

Portland, ME 76 70 pc 88 69 pc

Providence 83 73 t 89 73 t

Raleigh 86 73 t 85 73 t

Rapid City 81 58 s 90 65 s

Reno 100 64 pc 97 60 pc

Sacramento 94 57 pc 93 56 s

St. Louis 85 68 pc 90 70 s

Salt Lake City 96 74 pc 94 73 pc

San Diego 83 72 pc 81 71 pc

San Francisco 66 52 pc 66 52 pc

Seattle 78 56 pc 69 58 pc

Tucson 103 80 pc 101 79 t

Washington, DC 87 77 t 87 75 t

Wichita 90 64 s 92 67 s

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