

Oregon businesses hit hard by cancellations due to smoke

MEDFORD (AP) — Wildfire smoke in southern Oregon is forcing organizations that are dependent on tourist dollars to scramble for other options.

The air quality in Medford and surrounding towns continues to range from “unhealthy for sensitive groups” to “hazardous” levels. The air quality Sunday night in both Medford and Ashland moved into “hazardous” territory, the Mail Tribune reported.

A number of southern Oregon businesses catering to tourists during a limited season say they are watching profits dissipate like so many smoke fumes as fires persist.

Orange Torpedo Trips in Merlin, a whitewater rafting and kayaking trip company, hasn't been able to run single- or multi-day trips down the Rogue River near Hellgate Canyon since a closure was issued July 29.

“You're really unable to recover from the lost revenues,” operations manager Scott DeBo said. “We have such a short window. Our business is a seasonal business.”

Smoke has forced outdoor theater and entertainment events inside or forced cancellations, which also come at high price tags. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival has canceled at least one performance of each of its



In photo taken from video provided by Fox-12 Oregon a fast-spreading wildfire moves through Dufur, Ore., Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018. The fire forced mandatory evacuations in the north central Oregon community.

three outdoor plays this season: “Romeo and Juliet,” “The Book of Will” and “Love's Labor's Lost.” In addition to eight total cancellations, three performances have been moved to indoor venues, including Ashland High School's auditorium, said spokeswoman Julie Cortez.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival has already canceled more shows this year

than it did in all of 2017, Cortez said. “We are a non-profit theater company, and so this is serious,” she said. “We depend very much on ticket revenue.”

A canceled show translates to a loss upwards of \$50,000, she said, which doesn't account for concessions and other sales losses.

Predicted air quality conditions can change dramatically in a few hours, and

organizations walk a fine line between an expensive, potentially unnecessary cancellation and giving customers a too-late warning.

Cortez said with all the outdoor shows now ready to perform in the high school auditorium, the possibility of a show relocation will continue to be a daily guessing game. “We just have to see where the winds take us this week,” she said.

Protesting faith leaders arrested after blocking driveway at ICE facility

By ERICKA CRUZ-GUEVARRA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Department of Homeland Security police have arrested three religious leaders who blocked the driveway entrance of the Immigration of Customs Enforcement building in Portland Tuesday.

The leaders blocked the driveway after attempting to deliver a letter to acting field office director Elizabeth Godfrey, demanding the release of asylum-seekers in Sheridan who passed credible fear interviews.

Lawyers have said that detainees who have passed these interviews, which help determine whether an immigrant may be eligible for asylum, continue to be detained.

“How we treat the stranger — the immigrants among us — says so much about who we are and what we value,” said Rev. Barbara Nixon, one of the leaders arrested. Nixon is with the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis.

“What is happening in our state, at Sheridan and elsewhere is, for me, the sad microcosm of what is happening throughout our nation — where fears of all kinds have interfered with the best, most loving possibilities of who we are,” she said.

It's not the first time clergy have attempted to meet with Godfrey demanding the asylum-seekers' release. The group said they brought the same letter a week ago to the ICE building where they were told Godfrey was inside.

“We have no reason to believe [the letter] wasn't delivered,” said Rev. Michael Ellick, another leader who was arrested, with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

On Tuesday, an ICE employee took the letter but would not say whether Godfrey was inside.

DHS officers largely stood by while people gathered outside the ICE building and sang “This Little Light of Mine.” Officers moved in after the clergy moved toward the driveway and sat down, blocking a car from entering.

Jurors view truck of Finicum, killed during refuge standoff

PORTLAND (AP) — After nine days of testimony, the government has rested its case against indicted FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita.

The Oregonian/Oregonian reports the defense began its case Tuesday, with Astarita's lawyers expecting to call no more than five witnesses. It's unknown if Astarita will testify.

Astarita is charged with making false statements and obstruction of justice after telling investigators he did not fire two shots that missed Robert “LaVoy” Finicum, an Arizona rancher who served as spokesman for the Ammon Bundy-led group that seized an Oregon wildlife refuge in 2016.

The errant shots came as Finicum left his pickup while authorities tried to arrest him. Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum seconds later.

Jurors on Monday inspected a bullet hole in the roof of Finicum's truck, and heard an expert explain the trajectory of the shot. The demonstration took place at the loading dock of the federal courthouse.

State's new phone system has another outage

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

A network failure wiped out phone service at multiple state agencies in Salem, Keizer, Dallas and Woodburn Tuesday.

The failure was due to a CenturyLink internet outage, said Elizabeth Craig, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. The state's new phone system needs internet to operate. The system uses voice over inter-

net protocol technology, or VOIP.

Phones lost service at about 1:15 p.m. Tuesday and were still down just before the end of the business day.

Century Link has dispatched a technician to troubleshoot the outage, Craig said.

State workers have experienced multiple phone failures since IBM built and installed the new phone system known as Project MUSIC (mobilizing unified systems and integrated

communications) about two years ago, as first reported by Willamette Week in March.

“The network failure is related to an issue with Century Link (one of our vendors), not IBM. However, if the impacted sites use Voice over IP (VOIP)

phones, those won't work until network connectivity is restored,” Craig wrote in an email to the Pamplin/EO Capital Bureau.

The state spent about \$46 million on the new phone system for more than 30,000 state employees, according to WW.

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.

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| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| HOT | HOT | | | |
| Mostly sunny and very hot | Very hot | Becoming windier and not as hot | Mostly sunny and cooler | Partly sunny and nice |

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
106° 67° 109° 72° 97° 60° 82° 55° 88° 55°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
108° 64° 111° 73° 100° 63° 87° 54° 92° 52°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE
HIGH LOW
Yesterday 99° 62°
Normals 89° 59°
Records 110° (1898) 42° (1931)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.08"
Year to date 6.49"
Last year to date 11.30"
Normal year to date 8.03"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE
HIGH LOW
Yesterday 100° 55°
Normals 89° 59°
Records 106° (1972) 41° (1939)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.05"
Year to date 5.10"
Last year to date 6.59"
Normal year to date 5.97"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:47 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:14 p.m.
Moonrise today 2:32 a.m.
Moonset today 6:10 p.m.

New First Full Last
Aug 11 Aug 18 Aug 26 Sep 2

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds may break today; however, partly sunny in the south.

Eastern Washington: Hazy sunshine today. A star-studded sky tonight.

Cascades: Hazy sunshine and hot today. A star-studded sky tonight.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today; however, low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast.

Northern California: Partly sunny at the coast today; hazy elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

| | Today | | | Thu. | | |
|---------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Astoria | 75 | 57 | c | 73 | 57 | c |
| Baker City | 102 | 55 | s | 105 | 58 | s |
| Bend | 103 | 60 | pc | 103 | 61 | s |
| Brookings | 65 | 54 | c | 64 | 54 | c |
| Burns | 100 | 53 | pc | 104 | 53 | s |
| Enterprise | 98 | 59 | s | 103 | 63 | s |
| Eugene | 97 | 55 | pc | 96 | 55 | s |
| Heppner | 104 | 68 | s | 106 | 72 | s |
| Hermiston | 108 | 64 | s | 111 | 73 | s |
| John Day | 103 | 65 | s | 107 | 65 | s |
| Klamath Falls | 98 | 54 | pc | 98 | 52 | pc |
| La Grande | 102 | 58 | s | 107 | 59 | s |
| Meacham | 100 | 55 | s | 106 | 58 | s |
| Medford | 102 | 66 | pc | 104 | 66 | s |
| Newport | 65 | 54 | c | 66 | 54 | c |
| North Bend | 68 | 56 | c | 68 | 56 | c |
| Ontario | 102 | 63 | s | 106 | 65 | s |
| Pasco | 106 | 61 | s | 109 | 67 | s |
| Pendleton | 106 | 67 | s | 109 | 72 | s |
| Portland | 99 | 66 | pc | 97 | 64 | s |
| Redmond | 106 | 55 | pc | 106 | 58 | s |
| Salem | 99 | 61 | pc | 100 | 59 | s |
| Spokane | 99 | 66 | pc | 105 | 71 | pc |
| Ukiah | 101 | 57 | s | 106 | 56 | s |
| Vancouver | 97 | 63 | pc | 96 | 61 | s |
| Walla Walla | 106 | 73 | s | 110 | 76 | s |
| Yakima | 103 | 65 | pc | 107 | 70 | pc |

WORLD CITIES

| | Today | | | Thu. | | |
|-------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Beijing | 86 | 76 | sh | 90 | 75 | pc |
| Hong Kong | 92 | 82 | pc | 92 | 82 | pc |
| Jerusalem | 84 | 69 | s | 87 | 69 | s |
| London | 74 | 58 | pc | 68 | 53 | c |
| Mexico City | 75 | 55 | t | 75 | 55 | t |
| Moscow | 71 | 53 | pc | 75 | 55 | pc |
| Paris | 80 | 63 | pc | 71 | 54 | r |
| Rome | 89 | 71 | pc | 89 | 72 | r |
| Seoul | 94 | 80 | s | 91 | 77 | t |
| Sydney | 69 | 48 | s | 65 | 48 | s |
| Tokyo | 83 | 78 | r | 87 | 80 | r |

WINDS

| (in mph) | Today | Thursday |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| Boardman | NE 4-8 | W 4-8 |
| Pendleton | NE 4-8 | NNW 4-8 |

UV INDEX TODAY

2 4 7 7 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: A swath of showers and thunderstorms will extend along a temperature boundary from New England to the southern High Plains and Rockies today. Most areas west of the Rockies will be dry, sunny and hot.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 115° in Needles, Calif. **Low 29°** in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

| | Today | | | Thur. | | |
|----------------|-------|----|----|-------|------|----|
| | Hi | Lo | W | Hi | Lo | W |
| Albuquerque | 95 | 66 | pc | 89 | 63 | pc |
| Atlanta | 91 | 72 | t | 88 | 71 | t |
| Baltimore | 91 | 72 | t | 87 | 71 | pc |
| Birmingham | 92 | 73 | t | 88 | 71 | t |
| Boise | 102 | 67 | s | 106 | 71 | s |
| Boston | 86 | 73 | t | 86 | 71 | pc |
| Charleston, SC | 93 | 76 | t | 94 | 75 | t |
| Charleston, WV | 85 | 68 | t | 83 | 66 | pc |
| Chicago | 84 | 67 | s | 89 | 67 | pc |
| Cleveland | 83 | 67 | t | 86 | 68 | s |
| Dallas | 95 | 75 | t | 89 | 72 | t |
| Denver | 85 | 61 | pc | 87 | 59 | s |
| Detroit | 83 | 64 | r | 86 | 67 | pc |
| El Paso | 99 | 73 | pc | 93 | 69 | pc |
| Fairbanks | 59 | 43 | c | 63 | 45 | c |
| Fargo | 91 | 61 | s | 88 | 60 | s |
| Honolulu | 88 | 78 | pc | 89 | 78 | pc |
| Houston | 93 | 77 | t | 93 | 77 | t |
| Indianapolis | 83 | 66 | t | 86 | 68 | pc |
| Jacksonville | 93 | 73 | t | 93 | 73 | pc |
| Kansas City | 89 | 66 | pc | 94 | 68 | s |
| Las Vegas | 108 | 84 | s | 106 | 84 | s |
| Little Rock | 88 | 68 | t | 84 | 69 | t |
| Los Angeles | 94 | 70 | s | 94 | 71 | s |
| Louisville | 87 | 71 | t | 88 | 70 | pc |
| Memphis | 88 | 73 | t | 82 | 71 | t |
| Miami | 91 | 77 | pc | 91 | 77 | pc |
| Milwaukee | 82 | 68 | s | 85 | 67 | t |
| Minneapolis | 88 | 68 | s | 88 | 67 | s |
| Nashville | 89 | 71 | t | 85 | 69 | c |
| New Orleans | 90 | 76 | t | 87 | 77 | t |
| New York City | 89 | 74 | t | 87 | 72 | pc |
| Oklahoma City | 84 | 67 | t | 87 | 68 | t |
| Omaha | 89 | 67 | t | 94 | 67 | s |
| Philadelphia | 90 | 74 | t | 89 | 70 | pc |
| Phoenix | 104 | 84 | t | 101 | 83 | t |
| Portland, ME | 83 | 69 | t | 83 | 65 | pc |
| Providence | 89 | 73 | t | 88 | 69 | pc |
| Raleigh | 94 | 72 | t | 92 | 70 | pc |
| Rapid City | 89 | 57 | s | 89 | 61 | s |
| San Antonio | 102 | 64 | pc | 102 | 64 | pc |
| Sacramento | 95 | 59 | pc | 98 | 61 | pc |
| St. Louis | 88 | 69 | t | 91 | 70 | pc |
| Salt Lake City | 95 | 66 | pc | 97 | 68 | pc |
| San Diego | 86 | 74 | pc | 90 | 75 | pc |
| San Francisco | 68 | 52 | pc | 70 | 53 | pc |
| Seattle | 94 | 63 | s | 93 | 62 | s |
| Tucson | 97 | 76 | t | 93 | 73 | t |
| Washington, DC | 92 | 75 | t | 89 | 73 | pc |
| Wichita | 88 | 66 | t | 93 | 68</ | |