

**IN BRIEFLY**

**Southern Oregon wildfire flares up prompting evacuations**

PORTLAND (AP) — A southern Oregon wildfire burning for months has flared up, prompting new evacuations and a declaration from the governor that clears the way for more resources to be sent to the blaze.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Klondike fire spokesperson Kale Casey says people in about 40 homes were under mandatory evacuation orders Monday morning.

Gov. Kate Brown on Monday declared a conflagration for the fire, which flared up Sunday south of the community of Agness in 20- to 30-mph winds and extremely dry conditions.

Casey says winds picked up embers from within the Klondike fire perimeter and carried them up to 6 miles. He says the fire remains active.

Fire marshal's office personnel were arriving Monday to protect homes and buildings. Casey said there were no reports of injuries.

**Police probe brawl of rightist, leftist Oregon protesters**

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon authorities have launched assault investigations after a Portland street brawl erupted between demonstrators with a right-wing group and left-wing counter-protesters.

Media reports Sunday said there were no immediate arrests following the clash Sunday, but police say they are investigating and seeking help from witnesses.

KGW-TV reported four people received medical attention.

Police say officers saw people at the demonstration with hard-knuckled gloves,

guns, knives and batons. The right-wing Patriot Prayer group was holding a "Flash March for Law and Order" when the counter-demonstrators, some of whom identified themselves as members of the militant group Antifa, confronted them and scuffles broke out.

No weapons were seized, but the *Portland Tribune* reports police in riot gear broke up fights.

**Oregon man dies after being shot in head**

DALLAS (AP) — A Polk County man died after being shot in the head during an incident south of Independence.

The *Statesman Journal* reports Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton says 31-year-old Joseph Sieg died in the Thursday night shooting.

A call came in at 8:38 p.m. notifying authorities of the incident. Garton says multiple attempts of lifesaving measures on Sieg were successful.

Garton ruled out suicide, but says no arrests have been made in the case.

**Snake River prison on lockdown after assault on staff**

ONTARIO (AP) — An Ontario, Oregon prison was placed on lockdown hours after an inmate allegedly assaulted a staff member.

KTVB-TV reports that officials with the Snake River Correctional Institution say the assault happened around 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The staff member was taken to the hospital with unknown injuries. Seven other security personnel who responded to the assault were taken to the hospital but have since been released.

**Buehlers invested \$100,000 in BETC credits before lambasting the program**

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Knute Buehler stumped on the floor of the Oregon House of Representatives to decry the state's controversial business energy tax incentives.

Buehler, now the Republican nominee for governor, left out one fact in his speech.

He and his wife once had personally invested in \$100,000 of the tax credits that later mushroomed into a multi-million dollar scandal at the state Energy Department, according to agency records.

Buehler didn't respond to a telephone message Friday seeking comment. His campaign instead issued a statement in response to questions from the *Oregon Capital Bureau*.

"The Buehlers purchased tax credits years before he was a lawmaker and before state mismanagement of the program forced the legislature to repeal the program," campaign spokeswoman Monica Wroblewski said.

The Bend surgeon invested in the state's business energy tax credit program — referred to as BETC, pronounced "Betsy" — that was designed to encourage businesses to develop renewable energy projects.

Nearly 30 years after its creation in 1979, the incentive became a boondoggle for the state. Lawmakers questioned the program in 2008, when the state issued \$180 million in credits, triple the amount of the previous year.

The state shut off the credits in 2014 and soon after it became a talking point for state lawmakers who didn't like how the state was managed. That included Buehler.

In 2015, the then-freshman lawmaker from Bend lambasted the incentives during a debate on the state's low carbon fuels standard on the House floor.

He said a proposed fuels program was "another risky taxpayer financed energy jobs scheme having zero credibility."

He said the state had "presided over a scandalous and perhaps even criminal waste of tax credit giveaways that mostly benefit out-of-state corporations and well-heeled investors at the expense of Oregon taxpayers, and more import-



EO Media Group file photo

**Representative Knute Buehler, the Republican candidate for Oregon governor, invested \$100,000 with his wife in the business energy tax credit program in about 2008, and later as a legislature harshly criticized the program as a "scandalous and perhaps even criminal waste of tax credit giveaways."**

ant funding priorities like K-12."

In about 2008, according to state records, Buehler bought \$50,000 in tax credits for \$33,500. His wife, Patricia, had an identical but separate transaction at the same time.

In purchasing the credits, the couple were pass-through partners in an arrangement that allowed them to buy tax credits at a discounted rate from SeSequential-Pacific Biodiesel LLC, for a new biodiesel production plant, according to Energy Department records.

Buehler's campaign didn't respond to written questions about when the purchases were completed or whether the tax credits were claimed on his tax returns. The credits would offset other tax liabilities.

A year ago, Buehler criticized the tax credit program again in an opinion piece he wrote for *The Oregonian*.

"Oregon is just beginning to clean up the mess from its notorious business-energy tax credit scandal, which sent millions of tax dollars to energy speculators and well-to-do investors that could have been better spent on Oregon students," Buehler wrote on Oct. 22, 2017.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's campaign said in a statement that Buehler should release all of his tax returns. He disclosed his 2016 and 2017 tax returns in June.

"We've been calling on

Knute Buehler to release his tax returns for this very reason," said Christian Gaston, a spokesman for the Brown campaign. "Voters need to be able to see what other special tax breaks he's taken, and what else he's hiding. It's amazing that he took advantage of these credits, and then turned around and decried that well-to-do investors were benefiting."

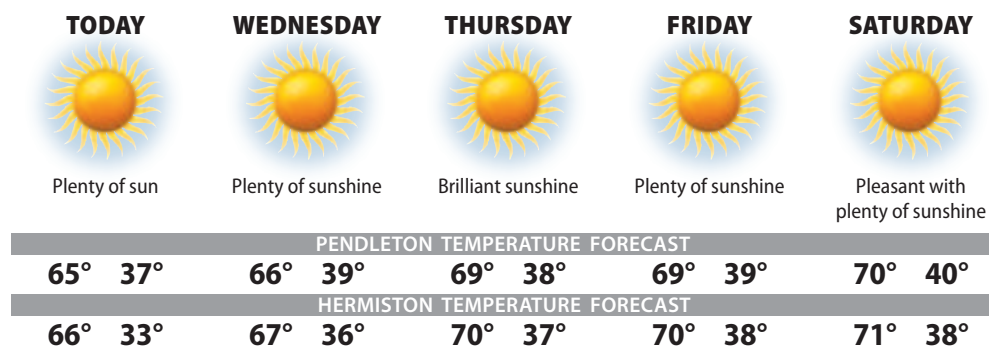
The infamous tax credit was back in the spotlight this week, as the Oregon Department of Justice announced it was recouping \$13 million from Tesla Energy Solutions.

Tesla Energy Solutions bought SolarCity, a solar energy company that the state said reported inflated project costs to get more tax credit money from the state.

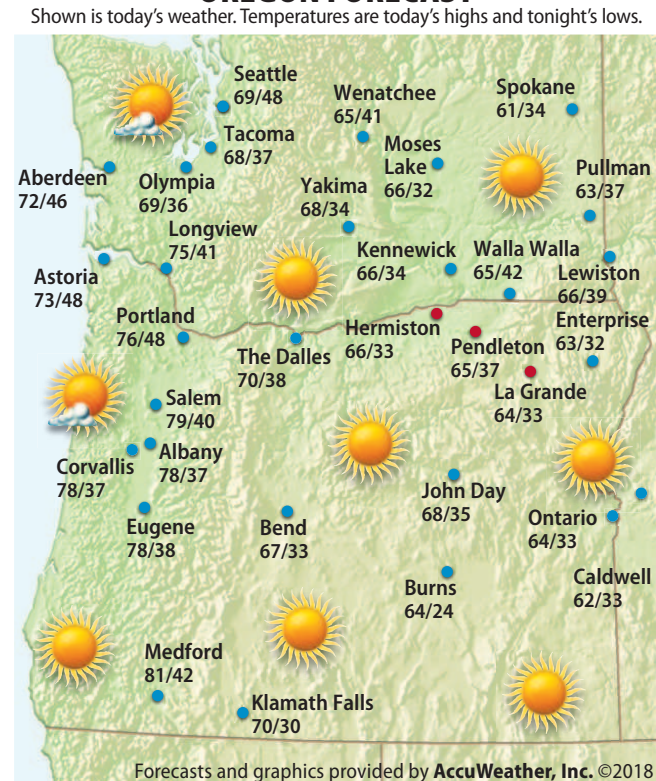
"The BETC program was meant to channel public funds to help local businesses, create clean energy jobs, and stimulate the economy during a period of economic uncertainty. Unfortunately, some companies abused the program," Attorney General Rosenblum said in a statement Thursday.

Reporter Claire Withycombe: [cwithycombe@eomediagroup.com](mailto:cwithycombe@eomediagroup.com) or 503-385-4903. Withycombe is a reporter for the *East Oregonian* working for the *Oregon Capital Bureau*, a collaboration of *EO Media Group*, *Pamplin Media Group*, and *Salem Reporter*.

**Forecast for Pendleton Area**



**OREGON FORECAST**



**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	64°	33°
Normals	64°	40°
Records	84° (1991)	23° (1897)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.39"
Normal month to date	0.49"
Year to date	7.91"
Last year to date	12.55"
Normal year to date	9.43"

**HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	64°	29°
Normals	66°	39°
Records	84° (1963)	20° (1969)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.14"
Normal month to date	0.26"
Year to date	6.29"
Last year to date	7.19"
Normal year to date	6.82"

**WINDS** (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton	N 4-8	NNW 4-8

**SUN AND MOON**

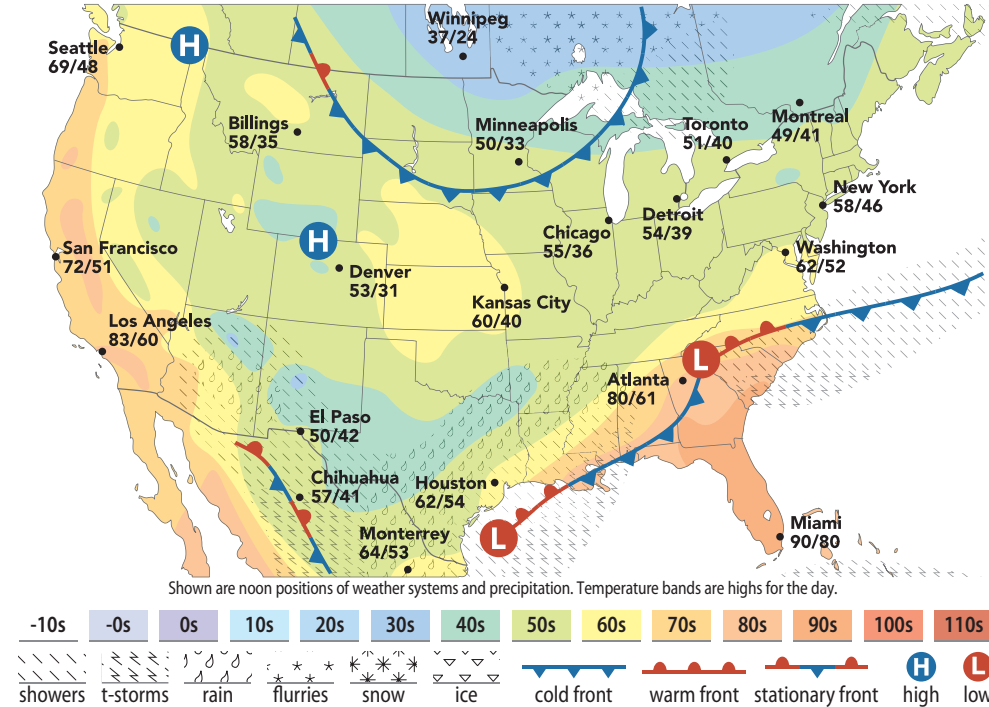
Sunrise today	7:13 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:08 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:31 p.m.
Moonsset today	11:50 p.m.

**NATIONAL EXTREMES**

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 93° in Brownsville, Texas Low -8° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

**NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY**



**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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