

Organization seeks to stop redevelopment of farmland

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
EO Media Group

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — The U.S. loses more than 3 acres of farm and ranch land to development each minute, the leader of a national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ag land told a food security conference.

More than 31 million acres — of 350 million total acres of farmland — were converted to other development between 1992 to 2012, including 11 million acres of the best farmland, said John Larson, senior vice president of national programs for American Farmland Trust. He spoke during a food security forum Oct. 26 in Walla Walla, Wash.

“Once it’s lost, it’s lost,” he said.

By 2040, Larson said, the U.S. will have 66 million

more people to feed, he said. The industry also faces rising sea levels and more intense rain, floods and droughts, he said.

By the end of the century, roughly 15 percent of the best farmland, or 52.5 million acres, could be lost, Larson said.

Some regions produce little of the food they consume, he said. For example, to get to 50 percent security in food production, in New England would need an additional 1 million acres of farmland.

“Stemming loss is one thing,” Larson. “Redeveloping farmland is a whole other challenge.”

In the meantime, stopping the redevelopment of farmland will require more resources, he said. For every penny states invest to save farmland, they spend about \$10 on highways,



Matthew Weaver/EO Media Group
John Larson, senior vice president of national programs for the American Farmland Trust, addresses a food security forum on Oct. 26 in Walla Walla, Wash.

Larson said.

The nonprofit organization works to protect farm-

land through tax relief and other incentives, limiting development of farmland and

permanently protecting farmland from development.

The AFT recommends:
• Dramatically increasing funding to protect ag land through agricultural conservation easements and agricultural land easements.

• Fully funding USDA efforts to monitor changes to U.S. ag resources, in a proactive approach.

• Enacting a 21st century federal ag land protection strategy.

In early 2019, the organization will release state-specific reports, ranking each state’s efforts to protect farmland. Later in the year, it will develop projections for 2040, using county-level data to determine the greatest threats.

“If we’re disproportionately developing where our best is, we’re doing ourselves and future generations very much a disser-

vice,” Larson said.

State and local programs and farm-friendly land trusts have protected 6.5 million acres across the country, Larson said.

Hannah Clark, Pacific Northwest regional director for AFT, said funding is competitive. The more the industry connects farmland protection options and data with users throughout the supply chain, the better to develop strategies, she said, citing the example of a market deciding to protect ground for its organic carrot production through a land trust.

“How do we be more smart about what land we’re protecting?” she said. “I hope we can protect those keystone properties around the state we just can’t lose, but then the rest of it, we can figure out, how do we really make this thing work?”

BRIEFLY

Seven plead not guilty to charges stemming from ICE protests

PORTLAND (AP) — Seven people have pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges stemming from the weeklong demonstrations outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports

the seven appeared separately Monday to enter pleas in federal court to charges alleging they created disturbances and failed to comply with federal officers’ orders to leave the agency’s building.

Protesters had camped outside the office beginning June 17, leading to the building’s temporary closure. Authorities detained a number of people later that month while trying to reopen.

The activists sought the abolishment of

ICE and the end of the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance immigration policy.

Prosecutors claim the seven protesters “unreasonably obstructed” the building, “impeded and disrupted” government employees’ official duties and refused orders to leave.

A trial has been scheduled for March.

Body dumped ID’d as Portland woman; husband arrested

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities have arrested the husband of a woman whose body was found near a summer camp southeast of Portland.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office arrested 45-year-old Martin Gallo-Gallardo Monday.

The sheriff’s office says he’s facing a murder charge in the death of 38-year-old Coral Rodrigues-Lorenzo.

Her body was found Sunday by a worker at Camp Namanu near the Sandy River.

Clackamas County deputies say they believe she had been left in a ditch there on Saturday or Sunday.

The sheriff’s office says Gallo-Gallardo confessed to killing Rodrigues-Lorenzo during a Monday interview with detectives.

He was booked in the Clackamas County Jail and is being held without bail.

It wasn’t immediately known if he had an attorney to speak for him.

Man dies after he’s stabbed in the chest with sword

PORTLAND (AP) — Court records say a Portland man who was killed last week was stabbed in the chest with a sword that was hidden in a cane.

A probable cause affidavit says Timothy Cato pulled out the sword while 28-year-old Tyler Chism was arguing with his girlfriend around 2 a.m. Thursday in Northwest Portland.

The affidavit says Cato and an unidentified woman approached Chism and his girlfriend, and Cato pulled out the sword and stabbed Chism in the chest.

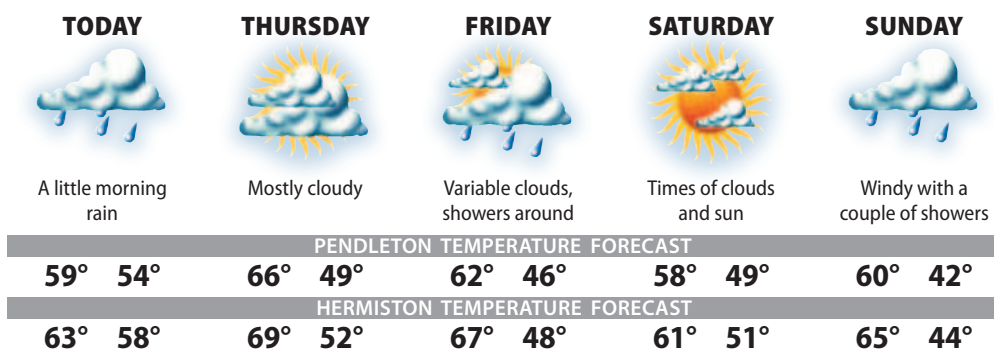
The affidavit says Cato then sheathed the sword and used the cane for assistance as he walked away, leaving the wounded man on the ground.

After his arrest, documents say 59-year-old Cato told court staff that he didn’t know Chism. Cato pleaded not guilty Monday to murder and unlawful use of a weapon charges.



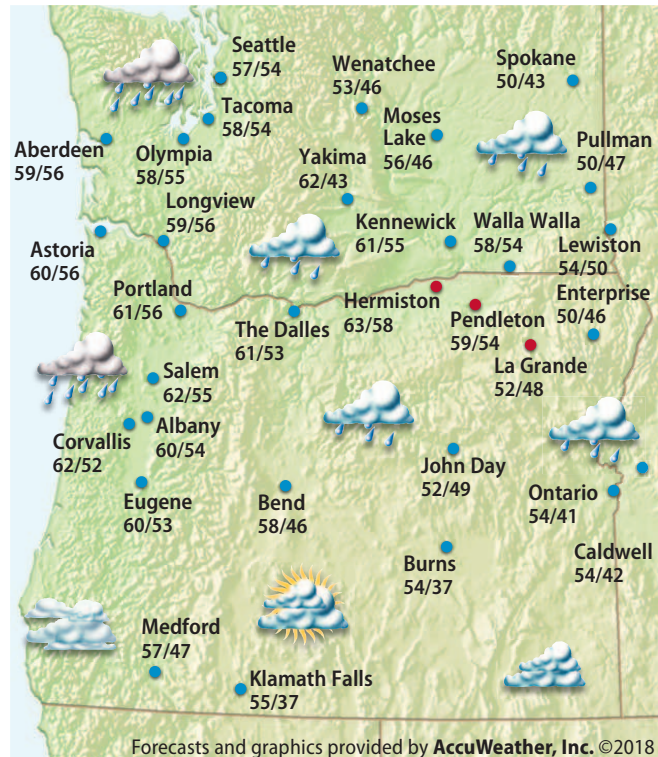
Cato

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	39°
Normals	57°	36°
Records	79° (1901)	11° (1935)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.56"
Normal month to date	1.01"
Year to date	8.08"
Last year to date	13.70"
Normal year to date	9.95"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	32°
Normals	59°	36°
Records	72° (2015)	6° (1935)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.27"
Normal month to date	0.68"
Year to date	6.42"
Last year to date	7.80"
Normal year to date	7.24"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Thu.
Boardman	WSW 7-14	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	SW 7-14	WSW 8-16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:33 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:43 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonsset today	2:28 p.m.

Last New First Full

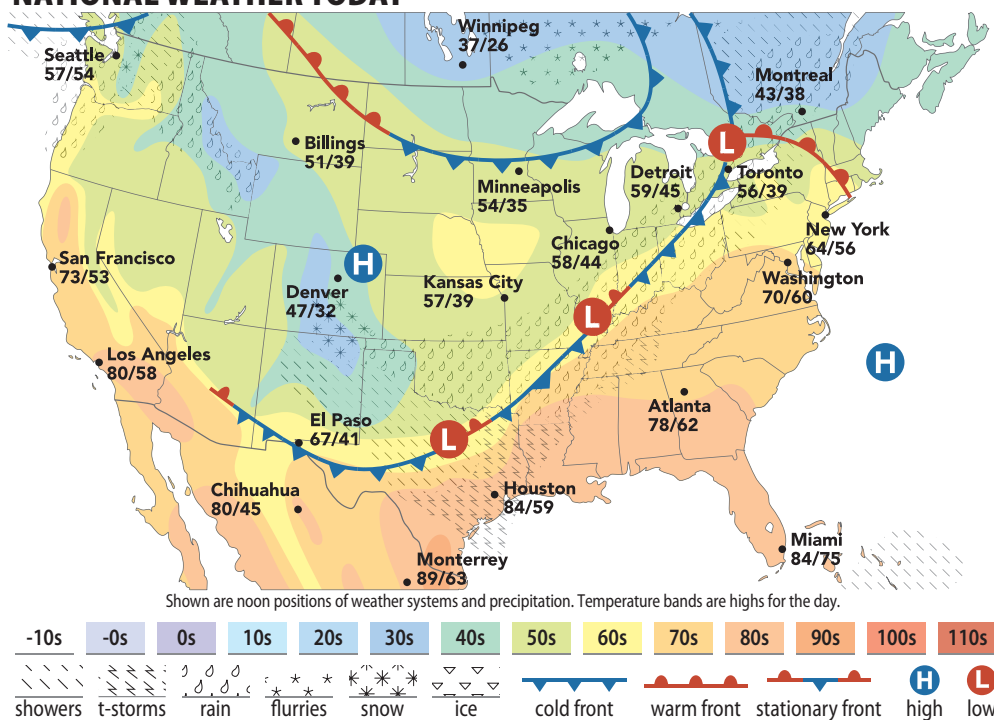


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 92° in Thermal, Calif. Low 6° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Biana Manchik, M.D.

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