

Audit flags problems with city of Portland's environmental agency

PORTLAND (AP) — A new audit finds problems with how the city of Portland is managing environmental restoration projects and "green streets" designed to control stormwater.

OPB reports that the Bureau of Environmental Services is spending millions on projects aimed at improving water quality, restoring wildlife habitat and preventing flooding, but auditors with the city of Portland found the bureau often can't prove those projects are meeting their goals.

This year, the bureau invested \$13 million in restoration projects and green streets. Auditors say the agency needs a better system for measuring the benefits of those investments.

"The Bureau cannot report on overall progress because there is no inventory of restoration projects on which to base reporting, none of the projects we reviewed had quantifiable goals, and there are no protocols for consistent monitoring or data collection," the audit states.

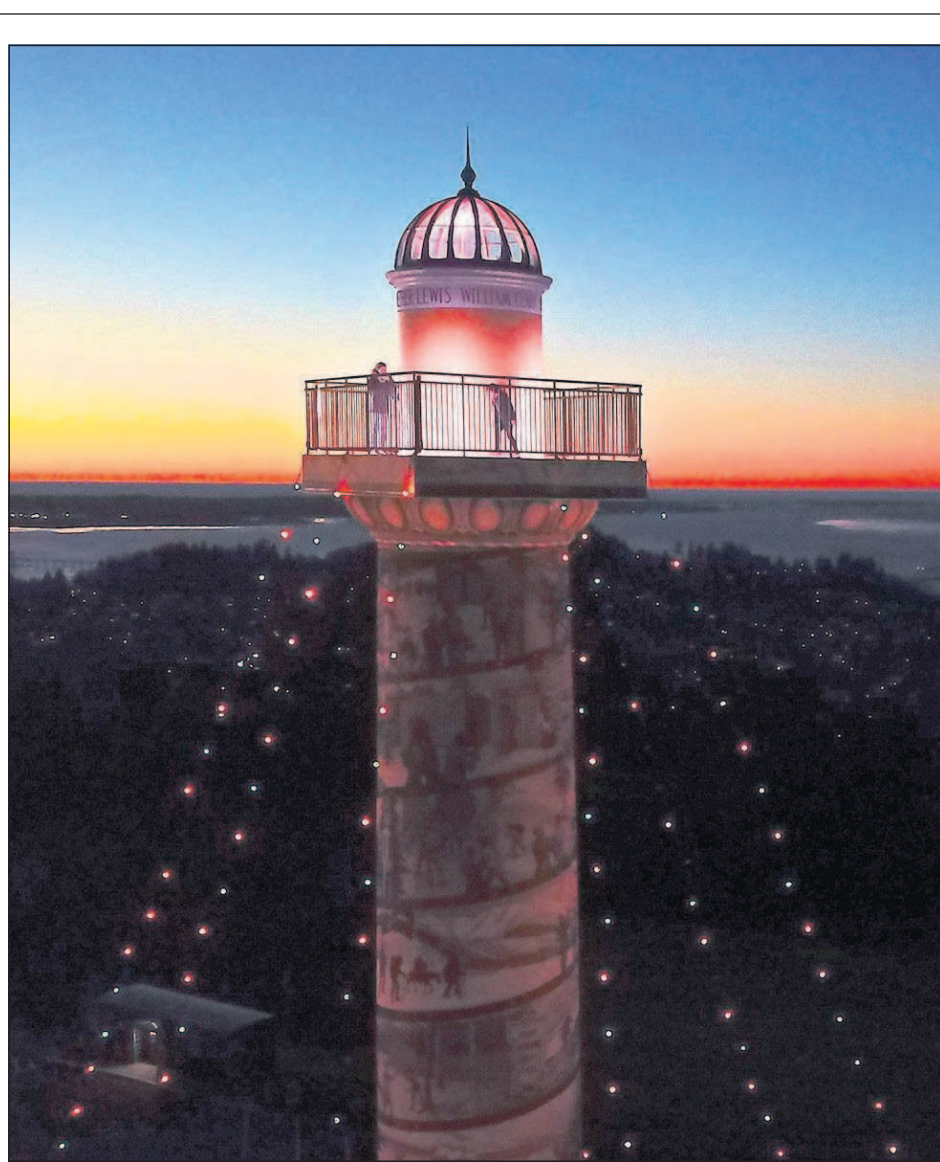
Kaitlin Lovell, science

integration division manager for the Bureau of Environmental Services, said the bureau has plenty of evidence that its restoration projects have been successful.

"We know they have been effective by having salmon swimming in urban streams and by having a swimmable Willamette River," she said. "What they're asking us to do is to be more quantifiable — to really demonstrate we are getting a return on our investment in a much more tangible way, and we think we can do that."

Lovell said the bureau agrees with the audit's conclusions and plans to collect more data at the beginning of its restoration projects to help measure the benefits over time.

The city's "green streets" use plants alongside roads to absorb stormwater and prevent sewer backups and overflows. But auditors found the bureau doesn't have a way of determining where they're most needed or how well they're working. Plus, it's failing to inspect and maintain them.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

High holidays

Visitors to the Astoria Column admire the view from the top of the landmark, which is decorated for the holidays.

Idaho to pay \$260,000 in legal fees in dairy spying lawsuit

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An animal welfare group on Tuesday applauded a court ruling ordering the state of Idaho to pay \$260,000 to attorneys for animal rights groups after federal courts said the state's law banning spying at farms, dairies and slaughterhouses violated free speech rights.

"We hope this award sends a strong message that Ag-Gag laws, which are designed to insulate factory farms from public scrutiny, are not only bad policy but illegal as well," said John Seber of Mercy for Animals in a statement to The Associated Press.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill issued the order Friday as part of a settlement between Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden and the Animal Legal Defense Fund and others.

The attorney general's office declined comment.

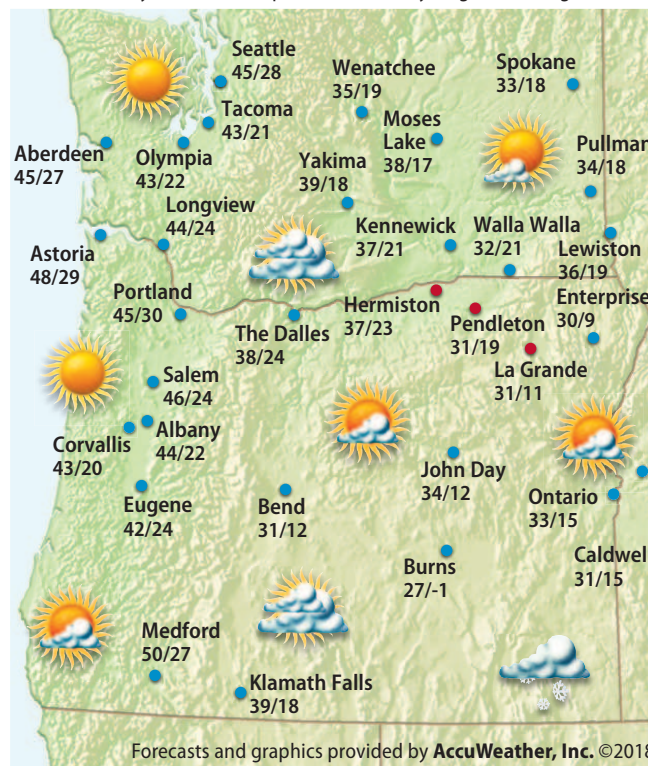
Forecast for Pendleton Area

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TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny and colder	Plenty of sunshine, but cold	Mostly sunny and chilly	Rather cloudy; ice at night	Cloudy
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
31° 19°	32° 19°	34° 21°	36° 22°	36° 25°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
37° 23°	35° 23°	35° 24°	37° 25°	37° 27°

OREGON FORECAST

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

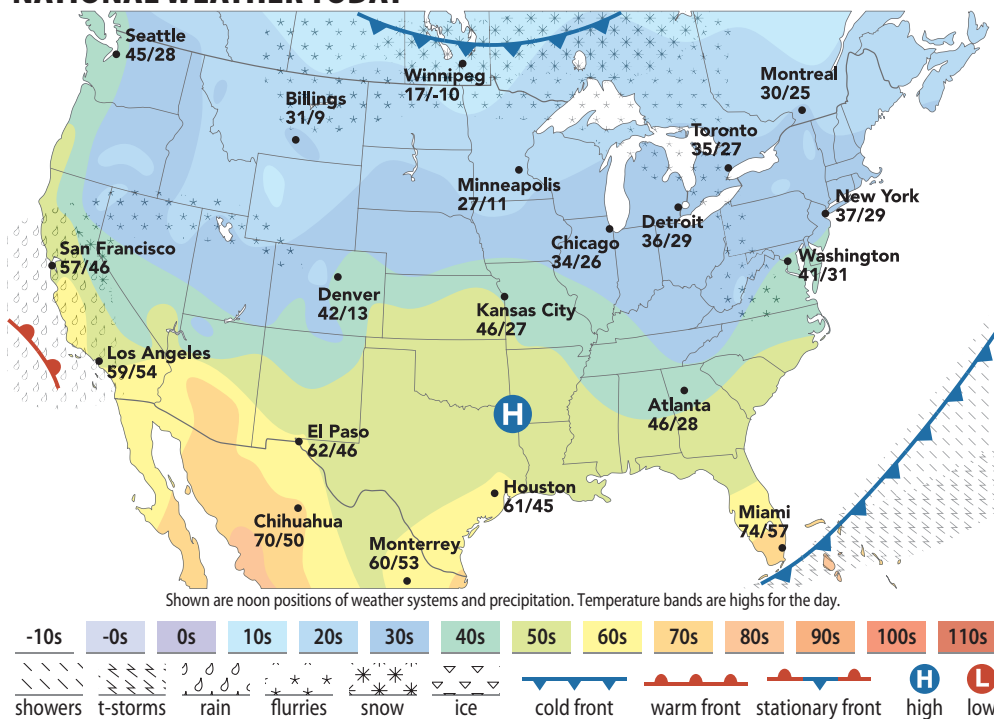


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 88° in Marathon, Fla. Low -20° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	40°	26°
Normals	41°	28°
Records	70° (1923)	-1° (1972)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.01"
Normal month to date	0.18"
Year to date	8.88"
Last year to date	15.33"
Normal year to date	11.65"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	41°	33°
Normals	42°	29°
Records	67° (1982)	2° (2013)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.01"
Normal month to date	0.22"
Year to date	6.97"
Last year to date	8.77"
Normal year to date	8.69"

WINDS (in mph)

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

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:20 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:12 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:23 a.m.
Moonset today	3:38 p.m.



Dec 6 Dec 15 Dec 22 Dec 29

BRIEFLY

Officials confirm 10th sea lion killed by gunshot wound

SEATTLE (AP) — A necropsy has determined that a sea lion died from a gunshot wound, marking the 10th to have been found shot and killed in the Puget Sound.

The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports the Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network confirmed the death of the sea lion found in west Seattle last week.

Sixteen dead sea lions have been reported in King and Kitsap counties in recent months. Some of the deaths were caused by "acute trauma," including encounters with humans or attacks by other animals.

Killing sea lions is illegal under the federal Marine Mammal Act. It's punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

The Marine Animal Rescue and Sea Shepherd Seattle are offering rewards for information about the shootings that leads to an arrest.

Neighbors band together to delay work on housing development

MUKILTEO, Wash. — Neighbors

banded together and parked their cars in the path of a bulldozer to successfully block the construction of a housing development in Mukilteo.

Residents on Monday kept crews from accessing the 0.03 square miles of land that are set to become the 112 homes of Frogal Estates.

The confrontation ended after a brief stalemate. A deputy responded but issued no citations or warnings. The workers left.

Snohomish County planners say the developer, Integral Northwest, has permits to put up erosion-control fences and log the property.

The neighbors aren't sure what will happen this week. They are in an appeals process with a hearing set for mid-February.

Bill Lider, an engineer with the Sno-King Watershed Council, a group fighting the project in court, says the council intends to seek a court order this week to stay the initial work.

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.

MCKAY CREEK ESTATES



Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 20 • 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for our annual Holiday Dinner and celebration.

Menu:

- Our Finest Christmas Goose, Prime Rib, and Ham
- Fresh fruit, Cheese and assorted cracker's to start
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetables, & Green salad
- Cranberry Sauce
- Bourbon Candied Yams
- Dinner Rolls
- Pecan, Pumpkin, and Apple Pie

\$10
Adults

\$5
Children
12 & under

RSVP by **December 14** to **(541) 276-1987**.

McKay Creek Estates
1601 Southgate Pl. • Pendleton, OR 97801

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