

Brown victory, Hammond pardon top stories

Wildfires choked out much of state in 2018

Gov. Kate Brown's election to her first full term was voted Oregon's top news story of 2018 by Associated Press staff.

Other top news items of the past 12 months included President Donald Trump's pardoning of the ranchers whose imprisonment sparked a standoff at a remote Oregon wildlife refuge, a fatal cougar attack near Mount Hood and protests in Portland.

Here are 2018's Top Oregon stories:

1) KATE BROWN WINS: Gov. Kate Brown in November was elected for the first time to a full term and Democrats gained a supermajority in both chambers of the Legislature that will enable them to more easily pass tax-raising measures without needing Republican support. Brown, who prevailed against Republican candidate Knute Buehler, was first appointed governor in February 2015 after Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned. She easily was elected in her own right in 2016 to finish out the term of Kitzhaber, who resigned amid accusations of influence peddling involving his fiancée.



In this Oct. 17, 2018, photo, Oregon Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, left, greets supporters at a rally in Portland.

2) HAMMOND PARDONS: A father and son convicted of intentionally setting fires on public land in Oregon were pardoned by President Donald Trump in July. The sentencing of Dwight and

Steven Hammond to mandatory five-year-minimum terms became a rallying cry for those who oppose federal control of public lands and sparked a protest from Ammon Bundy and dozens of others who occupied the

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016.

3) KRUSE RESIGNS: An Oregon state senator announced his resignation in February after an investigation determined he had harassed women in the Capitol building. Sen. Jeff Kruse said he had been deprived of his rights and denied wrongdoing.

4) WILDFIRES: Wildfires in southern Oregon caused the Shakespeare Festival to reduce shows and end early and the region was cloaked in smoke and ash.

5) MARIJUANA REGULATION: Efforts to regulate Oregon's marijuana industry are viewed as insufficient by some local law enforcement officials and the U.S. attorney for Oregon, causing the state regulatory agency to temporarily suspend issuing new licenses for recreational



Rancher Dwight Hammond Jr. deplanes after arriving by private jet at the Burns Municipal Airport, Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Burns, Ore. Hammond and his son Steven, convicted of intentionally setting fires on public land in Oregon, were pardoned by President Donald Trump on Tuesday, July 10.

marijuana businesses.

6) FATAL COUGAR ATTACK: A 53-year-old woman was found fatally mauled by a cougar in September in the Mount Hood National Forest southeast of Portland. Diana Bober, 55, was an avid hiker. Authorities say her death was the first deadly cougar attack on a human in Oregon history.

7) LE GUIN DIES: Ursula K. Le Guin, the award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer who explored feminist themes and was best known for her Earthsea books, died in January at her home in Portland. She was 88. Le Guin won an honorary National Book Award in 2014. Le Guin's first novel was "Rocannon's World" in 1966 but she gained fame three years later with "The Left Hand of Darkness," which won the Hugo and Nebula awards — top science fiction prizes — and conjured a radical change in gender roles well before the rise of the transgender community.

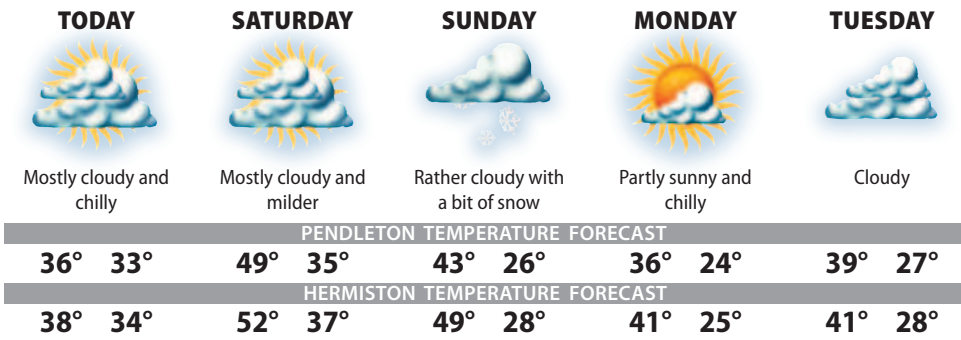
8) PORTLAND PROTESTS: Portland saw repeated, often violent clashes between a right-wing group and self-de-

scribed anti-fascist counter-protesters. Self-described anti-fascists — or "antifa" — organized to confront Patriot Prayer and an affiliated group, the Proud Boys, in the streets.

9) FBI AGENT ACQUITTED: A jury in August found an FBI agent not guilty of obstructing an investigation into who fired two errant shots at a key figure in the group that seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016. W. Joseph Astarita, 41, had been charged with making false statements and obstruction of justice after telling investigators he did not fire the shots that missed Robert "LaVoy" Finicum. Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum seconds later — a killing that was deemed legally justified.

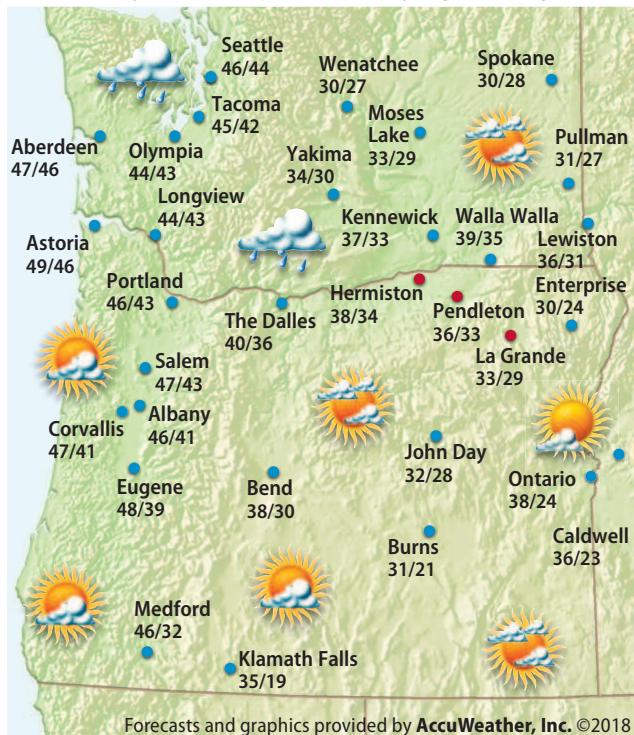
10) MEDICAID TAX: In a January special election, Oregonians vote to impose a tax on hospitals and health insurers to pay for Medicaid for low-income residents. Several counties that voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election also helped propel the ballot measure to resounding "yes" vote.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



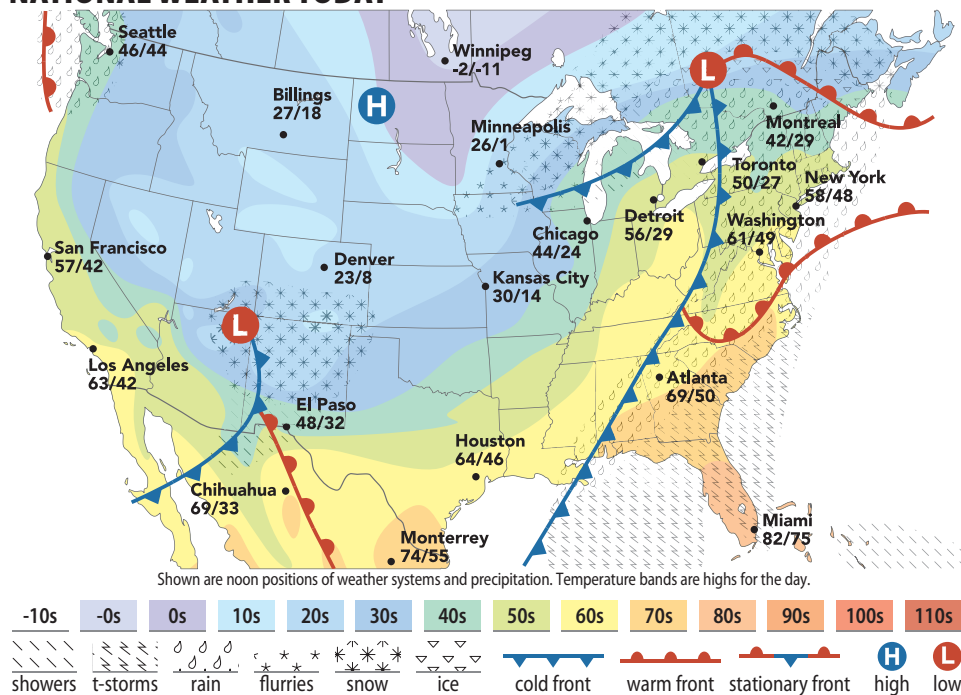
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	36°	32°	
Normals	39°	25°	
Records	63° (1980)	6° (1924)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.06"		
Month to date	1.35"		
Normal month to date	1.39"		
Year to date	10.22"		
Last year to date	16.24"		
Normal year to date	12.86"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	41°	36°	
Normals	39°	27°	
Records	63° (1955)	6° (1983)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	0.66"		
Normal month to date	1.28"		
Year to date	7.62"		
Last year to date	9.29"		
Normal year to date	9.75"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	ENE 3-6		
Sat.	SW 7-14		
Boardman	ENE 3-6		
Pendleton	S 4-8 SSW 8-16		
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	7:35 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	4:18 p.m.		
Moonrise today	11:49 p.m.		
Moonset today	11:50 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
Dec 29	Jan 5	Jan 13	Jan 20

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Marathon, Fla. Low -18° in Antero Reservoir, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BRIEFLY

Meeting set for Toppenish to address missing Native women

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A second Yakima County meeting on missing Native women in Washington has been announced for early 2019.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reports the event will take place Jan. 14 at Legends Casino in Toppenish, led by Craig Bill, director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and Washington State Patrol Capt. Monica Alexander. It will involve presentations and an open forum.

Bill and Alexander have held several similar meetings around the state. The first one in Yakima County took place Oct. 29 at the Yakima Convention Center in Yakima. Organizers estimated nearly 300 people attended.

The meetings are a result of Washington House Bill 2951, which requires the State Patrol to work with the Office of Indian Affairs and tribal leaders to determine how to increase reporting and investigation of missing Native American women.

The legislation also requires the state to collect data, for the first time, on the numbers of missing Native women.

No one knows exactly how many Native girls and women have gone missing on or near the 1.3-million-acre Yakama reservation. In 2009, the FBI concluded a two-year probe into the deaths of 16 women on the reservation from 1980 to 1993. An FBI spokesman said there may be as many as 32 unsolved cases on the reservation involving disappearances and deaths.

Alexander is compiling information

Man accused of ramming church a no-show in court

PORTLAND (AP) — A 35-year-old man who is accused of intentionally crashing his SUV into a Vietnamese church early Monday didn't show up to a Portland courtroom as ordered.

Man accused of ramming church a no-show in court

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Hieu John Phung was in Astoria when he was "picked up" and taken to a hospital, a member of the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday told Multnomah County Circuit Judge Katharine von Ter Stegge.

The sheriff's office says it's possible that Phung was on a mental health hold. His court appearance was moved to January.

Phung was booked into Multnomah County's jail at 4 a.m. Monday on suspicion of criminal mischief and other charges after authorities say he called police to report he'd run his Acura MDX into the Our Lady of Lavang Catholic church.

He was released from jail the same day. The northeast Portland church was extensively damaged.

Alexander is compiling information

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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ADVERTISING

Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:

• Christopher Rush
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Services:

• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com
• Grace Bubar
541-276-2214 • gbubar@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Kimberly Macias
541-278-2683 • kmacias@eastoregonian.com
• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
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Business Office Manager:

541-966-0822

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com