

Fight on to save Columbia River salmon from toothy invader

By COURTNEY FLATT
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The fight to save Columbia River salmon could hinge on a major battle taking place in the basin's biggest reservoir. It pits biologists against a fish: the invasive northern pike.

Northern pike are aggressive. They eat anything in their path — they've even been spotted chomping on ducks and bats. That's bad news for soft-bellied fish, like rainbow trout.

"These pike here, they can really prey on a lot of fishes that these other fish in the reservoir right now can't," said Travis Rehm, a fisheries biologist with the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Rehm is one of the anglers standing in their way as the Spokane Tribe and other fisheries managers launch a counterattack. Biologists are catching as many northern pike as they can in Lake Roosevelt, the reservoir held back by the Grand Coulee Dam.

"Native species here haven't evolved to deal with a predator that's quite like pike," Rehm said.



Northwest Public Broadcasting Photo/ Courtney Flatt

Biologists are catching as many northern pike as they can in Lake Roosevelt, the reservoir held back by the Grand Coulee Dam.

To push back the northern pike's steady progression, biologists will be on the water for much of the summer, setting and checking about 15 gillnets each day. The goal: snagging as many northern pike as possible.

Rehm and two other biologists check the gillnets within 24 hours after they've set them in place.

These biologists know where to place the gillnets: near channels, in shallower areas, where the northern pike — apex predators in these waters — like to ambush prey. Tribal biologists also set gillnets for northern pike last year.

"The hotspots haven't changed. The densities within those have, and they're just increasing," Rehm said.

Gillnets are controversial because fish that aren't being targeted — like smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pikeminnow — get tangled in the nets. But Rehm said they're trying to be careful.

"We're doing our best to minimize bycatch and be as cognizant of everything as possible," he said.

All of the non-native fish the team catch are gutted. If people will eat the fish, the biologists file it and take it to the Spokane Tribe's food bank.

Hate makes a comeback in the Pacific Northwest

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Nearly two decades after the Aryan Nations' Idaho compound was demolished, far-right extremists are maintaining a presence in the Pacific Northwest.

White nationalism has been on the rise across the U.S., but it has particular resonance along the Idaho-Washington border, where the Aryans espoused hate and violence for years.

The neo-Nazi group was based near Hayden Lake, Idaho, starting in the 1970s, and eventually was bankrupted in a lawsuit brought by local activists and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Its compound was seized, and supporters dispersed.

But a series of incidents in recent weeks show far-right sentiments never really left the conservative region. In the county that is home to Hayden Lake, for instance, Republicans last month passed a measure expressing support for U.S. entry of a prominent Austrian far-right activist who was investigated for ties to the suspected New Zealand mosque gunman.

In 2018, at least nine hate groups operated in the region of Spokane and northern Idaho, including Identity Evropa, Proud Boys, ACT for America and America's Promise Ministries, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The center does not track how many members belong to each group.

Keegan Hanks, a researcher for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said the number of hate groups is growing across the U.S., driven in part by a toxic political culture. The human rights group counted 784 active hate groups in the U.S. in 2014 and 1,020 in 2018.

In particular, white supremacist groups are growing because of fears that the country's racial makeup is changing. "That drives a ton of anxiety," Hanks said.

These new far-right activists are more scattered than the ones who used to gather at the Aryan Nations by the dozens, experts say.

"It is no longer necessary to go to a compound in Hayden Lake, Idaho," said Kristine Hoover, director of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies in Spokane.

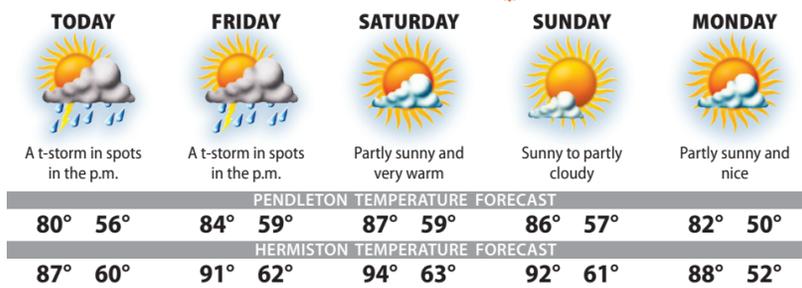
social media, groups "form in dispersed locations" and gatherings are "more covert," she said.

In late April, a self-described "American Nationalist" named Brittany Pettibone appeared at a meeting of Kootenai County, Idaho, Republicans to ask for help to bring her boyfriend, Martin Sellner, to the country from Austria. Pettibone, 26, said Sellner wants to marry her and live in Post Falls, Idaho.

Pettibone was a big promoter of the hoax known as "Pizzagate," telling her online followers Hillary Clinton and other high-profile Democrats were involved in satanic rituals and child sex trafficking tied to a Washington, D.C., pizza restaurant.

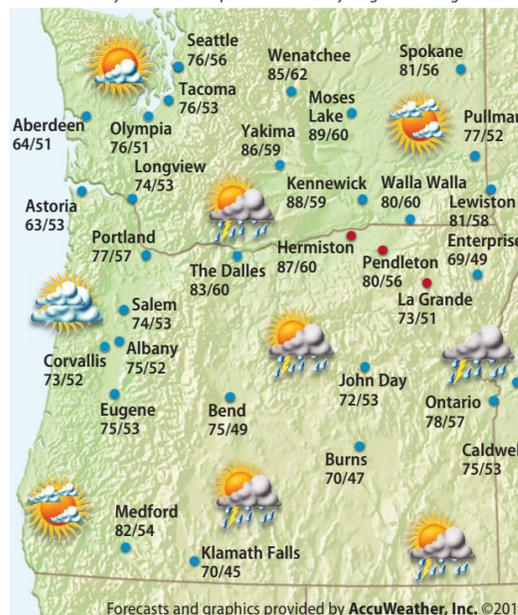
Sellner is a leading figure in the extremist "identitarian" movement, which espouses a white nationalist ideology and has swept over Europe amid an influx of migrants and refugees. He has confirmed he exchanged emails with the suspected New Zealand shooter, who donated money to Sellner's group. But Sellner denies involvement in the attack.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



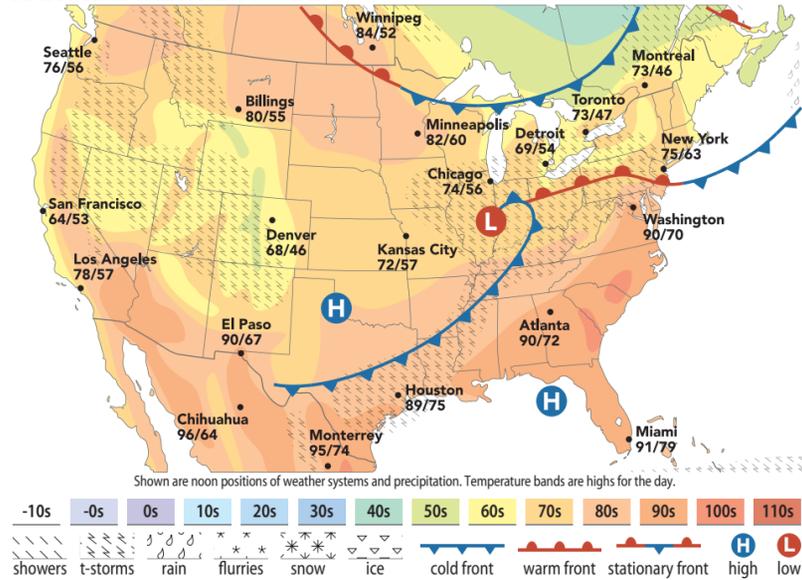
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	74°	54°	
Normals	74°	50°	
Records	103° (1897)	34° (1924)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"		
Month to date	1.52"		
Normal month to date	1.29"		
Year to date	9.28"		
Last year to date	6.07"		
Normal year to date	6.40"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	79°	59°	
Normals	76°	50°	
Records	99° (1983)	33° (1951)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.54"		
Normal month to date	1.05"		
Year to date	4.42"		
Last year to date	4.96"		
Normal year to date	5.04"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Fri.		
Boardman	SW 4-8	WSW 4-8	
Pendleton	NW 4-8	NW 4-8	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:11 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:35 p.m.		
Moonrise today	3:35 a.m.		
Moonset today	4:35 p.m.		
New	First	Full	Last
June 3	June 9	June 17	June 25

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 102° in Jacksonville, Fla. Low 24° in Aspen Springs, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



OREGON IN BRIEF

2 Oregon House Republicans yield to supermajority

SALEM (AP) — A GOP stalling tactic to slow progress on Oregon House Democrat's platform came to an end Wednesday after two Republicans broke party lines, saying it's time to "face the music of a supermajority."

Reps. Bill Post and Mike Nearman joined House Democrats Wednesday in voting to suspend the requirement that all legislation be read from start to finish. That gave the chamber, overwhelmingly controlled by Democrats, the votes needed to end a month-long stalling tactic that required that hundreds of pages of legislation be read aloud.

Post, from Keizer, said that he and Nearman are still "principled conservative Republicans," but that the stalling tactic wasn't productive with only four weeks left in the legislative session.

Democrats had already pushed through many of their main priorities, said Post, including a \$1 billion school funding package dependent on a half a percent tax on some businesses.

"I think we're all ready to vote and go home," he said. "It's time to move on and face the music of a supermajority."

Oregon approves temporary ban on 'fracking'

SALEM (AP) — The controversial oil exploration tactic known as fracking will be temporarily banned in Oregon until 2025 under a bill on its way to the governor.

The Senate voted 17-11 Wednesday to prohibit hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," which injects

high-pressure liquids into underground rock to extract oil and gas. Environmental advocates say that process can contaminate groundwater and pose other environmental risks.

The bill previously banned fracking for 10 years but the Senate cut that timespan roughly in half, something that must now be approved by the House before heading to the governor's desk.

There are currently no fracking operations in Oregon and there are only a handful of ongoing exploration activities. The measure will still permit the more common methods of oil and gas exploration already used in the state.

Teen who brought gun to high school pleads not guilty

PORTLAND (AP) — A student who was tackled by a football coach after bringing a shotgun into an Oregon high school classroom has pleaded not guilty to multiple charges.

Angel Granados-Diaz, 19, entered not guilty pleas Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court to possessing a firearm in a public building, discharging a firearm at a school, possessing a loaded firearm in public and reckless endangerment.

Defense attorney Adam Thayne said Wednesday after the hearing that depression played a role in the teen's decision to bring the gun to a class at Parkrose High School in Portland May 17, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Thayne also cited unspecified mental health issues that led Granados-Diaz to, according to witnesses, pull out the gun from underneath a trench coat after walking into his fourth-period gov-

ernment class before lunch.

Thayne praised football coach and security guard Keanon Lowe who stopped Granados-Diaz from hurting himself or anybody else.

"He is a hero," Thayne said. "Things I've heard from my client confirm the things that have been said."

Lowe said he had walked into the classroom about 20 seconds before Granados-Diaz that day and was looking for the student in response to a security call. Lowe was called because two students had told a staff member of "concerning behavior" from Granados-Diaz, according to the Parkrose School District.

In college, Lowe was a star wide receiver at the University of Oregon, playing from 2011 to 2014.

Police say Granados-Diaz had a single round in his shotgun while on campus and wasn't carrying any other weapons or ammunition. He didn't fire the gun while at the school.

Under Oregon law, a person can be charged with discharge of a firearm if they're accused of firing or trying to fire a gun.

Longtime Oregon state Sen. Jackie Winters dies

SALEM (AP) — Veteran Republican state Sen. Jackie Winters has died, according to House Speaker Tina Kotek. She was 82.

Kotek made the announcement on the floor of the House on Wednesday, and called for a minute of silence.

Winters, who was re-elected in the 2018 election to represent the Salem area, had been ill with cancer and had been absent from the Legislature for some time.

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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