

# Ranchers: Call sheriff, not WDFW, about wolves, cougars

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

KENNEWICK, Wash. — A cattlemen's group is urging Eastern Washington residents to report predator problems to their county sheriff rather than the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, a sign of rancher distrust in the state's response to wolves and cougars.

The Stevens County Cattlemen's Association accuses Fish and Wildlife of downplaying the threat of predators. Involving the sheriff will hold state wildlife investigators accountable, the association's president, Scott Nielsen, said Wednesday.

"It matters who you notify," he said. "If the sheriff isn't there, WDFW gets to control the message."

Cattlemen in northeast Washington have long complained that the department values managing wildlife over protecting property and public safety. The perspective leads Fish and Wildlife to blame landowners for conflicts with predators and colors its probes into suspected wolf attacks on livestock, according to the cattlemen.

Fish and Wildlife said in a written statement Wednesday evening that public safety is its highest priority.



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife/Rich Beausoleil, File

**A cattlemen's group in northeast Washington is reminding the public to contact the local sheriff's departments in the event of problems with predators such as cougars.**

"Each incident is taken very seriously with a commitment to assist the landowner and resolve the issue. WDFW will continue to work cooperatively with the sheriff's office on a daily basis, and is committed to working with local law

enforcement, which benefits everyone," according to the statement.

Stevens and Ferry counties share a deputy assigned to work with Fish and Wildlife investigators. The cattlemen's group may campaign this summer to persuade res-

idents to call the sheriff's deputy first.

"I want him in on every wolf and cougar investigation," Nielsen said. "We're not going to slam the department. We're going to promote the sheriff."

The cattlemen's call to

report predator problems to the sheriff was triggered in part by an incident May 26 in Stevens County. A man hiking with his daughter shot a wolf and called Fish and Wildlife immediately. The sheriff's office didn't learn about the incident until

several days later.

Fish and Wildlife said the killing was lawful because the man felt threatened, but did not say the man and his daughter were in danger. The cattlemen's group says the department minimized the threat posed by the wolf.

Stevens County Sheriff Brad Manke said Wednesday he has talked to Fish and Wildlife about the delay in telling his office about the shooting and anticipates swifter communication in the future.

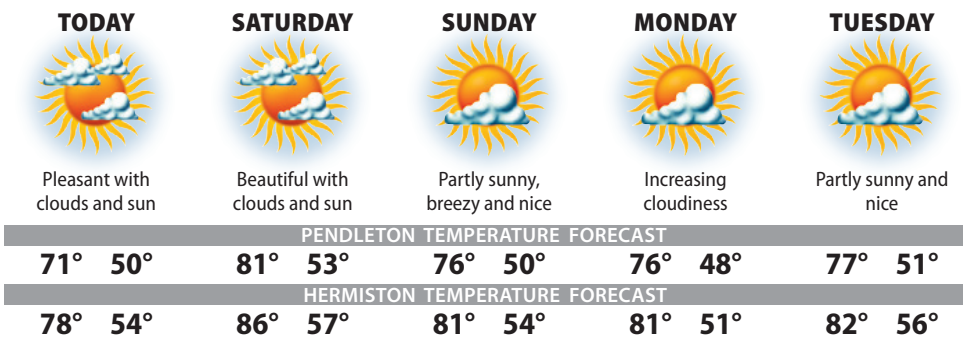
"I would expect we would be notified immediately," he said. "We, as the sheriff office, are not urging citizens to call us first, but we want and need the information."

Stevens County sheriff's emergency dispatchers relay reports of dangerous wildlife to Fish and Wildlife officers. When Fish and Wildlife gets called, the department has not been as quick in notifying the sheriff's office or sharing information, Manke said.

"In the past, it's been one way," he said. "I think the situation is improving."

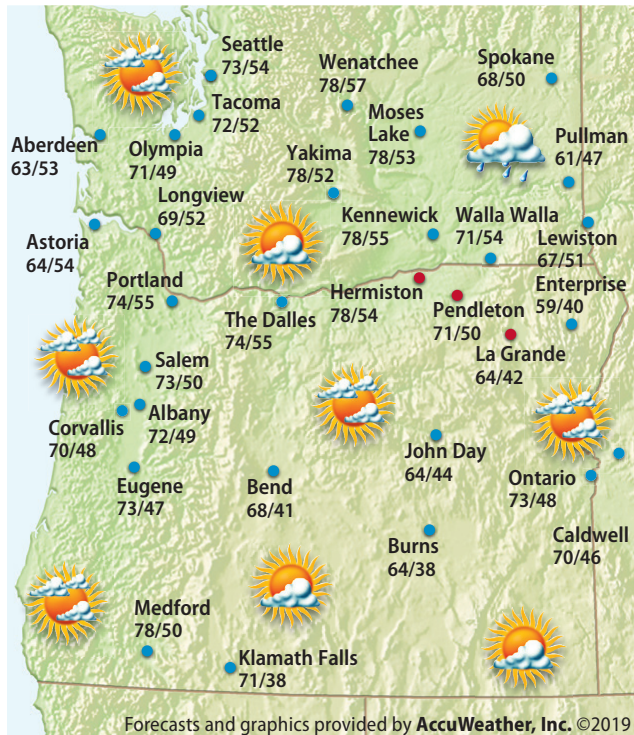
The Fish and Wildlife Commission, which usually meets in Olympia, held a meeting in Spokane in March and heard complaints about the department's response to cougars threatening people or property.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



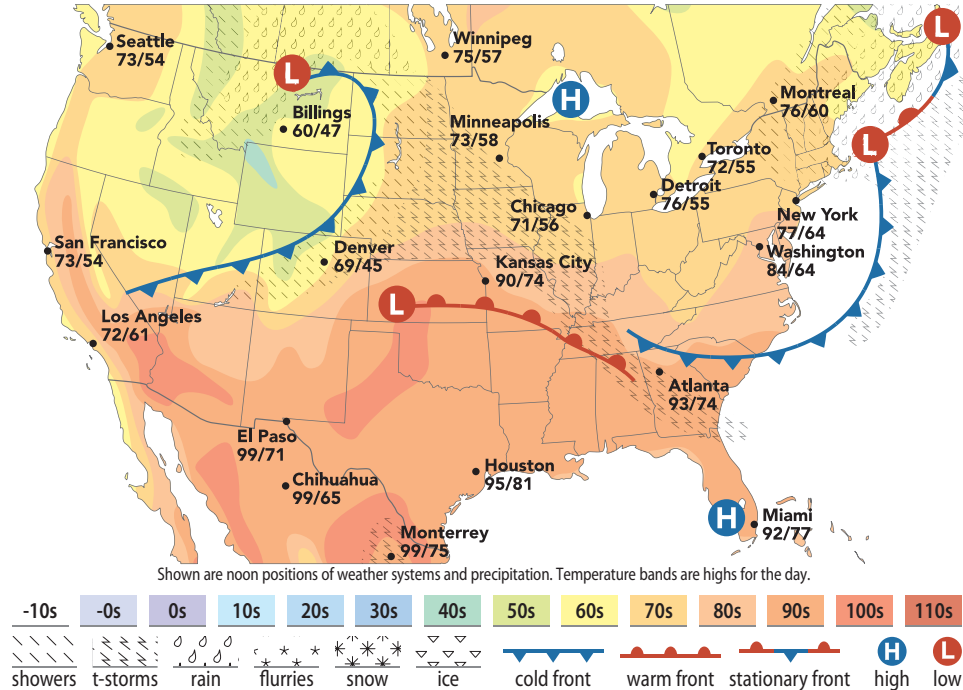
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	68°	48°	
Normals	80°	53°	
Records	103° (1900)	38° (1893)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	0.05"		
Normal month to date	0.91"		
Year to date	9.33"		
Last year to date	6.40"		
Normal year to date	7.42"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	74°	53°	
Normals	81°	54°	
Records	101° (1958)	42° (2012)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	Trace		
Normal month to date	0.45"		
Year to date	4.42"		
Last year to date	5.10"		
Normal year to date	5.56"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Sat.		
Boardman WSW 6-12	WSW 8-16		
Pendleton W 6-12	W 7-14		
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:06 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:48 p.m.		
Moonrise today	none		
Moonset today	9:10 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 108° in Carrizo Springs, Texas Low 25° in Sunrise Mountain, Ariz.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## Baker County ends contract with Greg Smith's company

Drop in revenue from county lodging tax cited as reason

By JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

goes to economic development, as required by a county ordinance.

Baker County's lodging tax revenue dropped from \$625,000 in the 2016-17 fiscal year to \$538,129 in 2017-18. The majority of that money is paid by guests at lodging establishments in Baker City.

The county is projecting a further drop in the lodging tax revenue, to \$420,000, for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

County Commission Chairman Bill Harvey last week described this as a "drastic reduction that has severely crippled our economic development abilities."

The county has contracted with Smith, a Republican state legislator from Heppner, since 2011.

The current contract, which took effect July 1, 2018, was slated to continue through June 30, 2022.

The contract includes a clause allowing the county to terminate the pact, with written notice to Smith, "if County funding from federal, state or other sources is not obtained and continued at levels sufficient to allow for the purchase of the indicated quantity of services."



Smith

BAKER CITY — Baker County's three-member board of commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday morning to terminate the county's contract with Greg Smith & Company LLC for economic development services one year after the four-year pact took effect.

Commissioners cited as a reason a significant drop in revenue from the county's lodging tax, 25% of which

## BRIEFLY

### Washington state man arrested in 2016 killing of ex-wife

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) — A Washington state man has been accused of helping to plan the killing of his ex-wife in Oregon.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports 38-year-old Matthew Hester was arrested Wednesday in Kennewick, Washington, on charges of criminal conspiracy to commit murder, solicitation of murder and hindering prosecution.

His wife, 37-year-old Angela McCraw-Hester, is accused of stabbing 34-year-old Anastasia Hester at her Gresham, Oregon, home in June 2016.

She is awaiting trial in Oregon on an aggravated murder charge. She was arrested at her home in Pocatello, Idaho, in October 2017.

Matthew Hester is expected to be extradited to Oregon.

raw sewage.

The researchers tested wastewater for a substance that is produced when people metabolize the active ingredient in pot. It is excreted in urine.

### Man gets life for kidnapping, killing Oregon woman, 89

PORTLAND (AP) — A registered sex offender has been sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping and killing an 89-year-old Portland woman and hiding her body in the trunk of his car.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office says Timothy Mackley on Thursday was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 35 years behind bars for the slaying of Marcine Herinck.

Mackley pleaded guilty to aggravated murder, kidnapping, burglary and abuse of a corpse.

The elderly woman's disappearance prompted a frantic search last September.

Prosecutors say Mackley kidnapped Herinck from her Northeast Portland home after they met at a thrift shop where she volunteered. Police arrested him Sept. 24 after pulling over his car and finding her decomposing body wrapped in a tarp.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office says Herinck died of multiple blunt force trauma.

### Gee whizz: Testing of sewage confirms rise in marijuana use

SEATTLE (AP) — The proof is in the pee.

A new federally funded study has confirmed, not surprisingly, that marijuana use went up in Washington state after its first legal pot stores opened in 2014. In fact, consumption doubled over three years — a conclusion scientists reached after performing the decidedly unglamorous work of analyzing

**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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