

Lightning storm headed to Pendleton

PENDLETON — Pendleton and the surrounding areas of Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington may experience potentially dangerous thunder and lightning storms on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm, which began with scattered thunderstorms over the mountains in Central Oregon on Tuesday, is expected to move into the area by midafternoon Wednesday before weakening as night falls, Marc Austin, a meteorologist with the NWS, said.

Regardless of the ultimate strength of the storm, Austin advised

the public remain inside or seek shelter indoors if thunder can be heard while outside.

"It's important to remember," he said. "If you can hear thunder, you can be struck by lightning."

Austin added that merely standing under a tree or other forms of cover outdoors doesn't ensure one's safety.

Due to limited rainfall in the area in recent weeks, lightning may present higher fire risks as well. People are urged to contact emergency services if they see any smoke or flames, Austin said.

Along with the potential thunder and lightning, the storm may also bring wind gusts up to 60 mph, heavy rain and hail.

Hail, if large and heavy enough, can cause injuries and even damage vehicles, Austin said.

Though Wednesday's conditions appear most likely for producing dangerous storms, Austin said that more thunder and lightning may be in the forecast throughout Thursday.

Stabbing investigation leads to arrest of Weston man

PENDLETON — Quinn Patrick Countryman of Weston faces felony charges after a stabbing at McKay Reservoir near Pendleton.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reported the stabbing took

place the night of June 16 and the ensuing investigation resulted in Countryman's arrest Saturday.

The sheriff's office on June 16 at 9:21 p.m. received a report from St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, of a 21-year-old man in the emergency department with a possible stab wound to his left hand. A deputy responded and took an initial report before an air ambulance flew the victim to an out-of-area hospital for surgery.

Statements indicated the victim was at McKay Reservoir earlier that evening with approximately 15-20 others, the sheriff's office reported, when he and Countrymen argued, which escalated into a "physical altercation in which Country-

man had used a knife to assault the victim."

Interviews with witnesses and people involved led to the arrest of Countryman. Deputies booked him into the Umatilla County Jail for second-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon and tampering with physical evidence.

The district attorney's office brought initial charges Monday of second-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon, according to state court records, and Circuit Judge Dan Hill set Countryman's bail at \$50,000.

Countryman remains in the jail. He has a probable cause hearing Friday afternoon.



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