

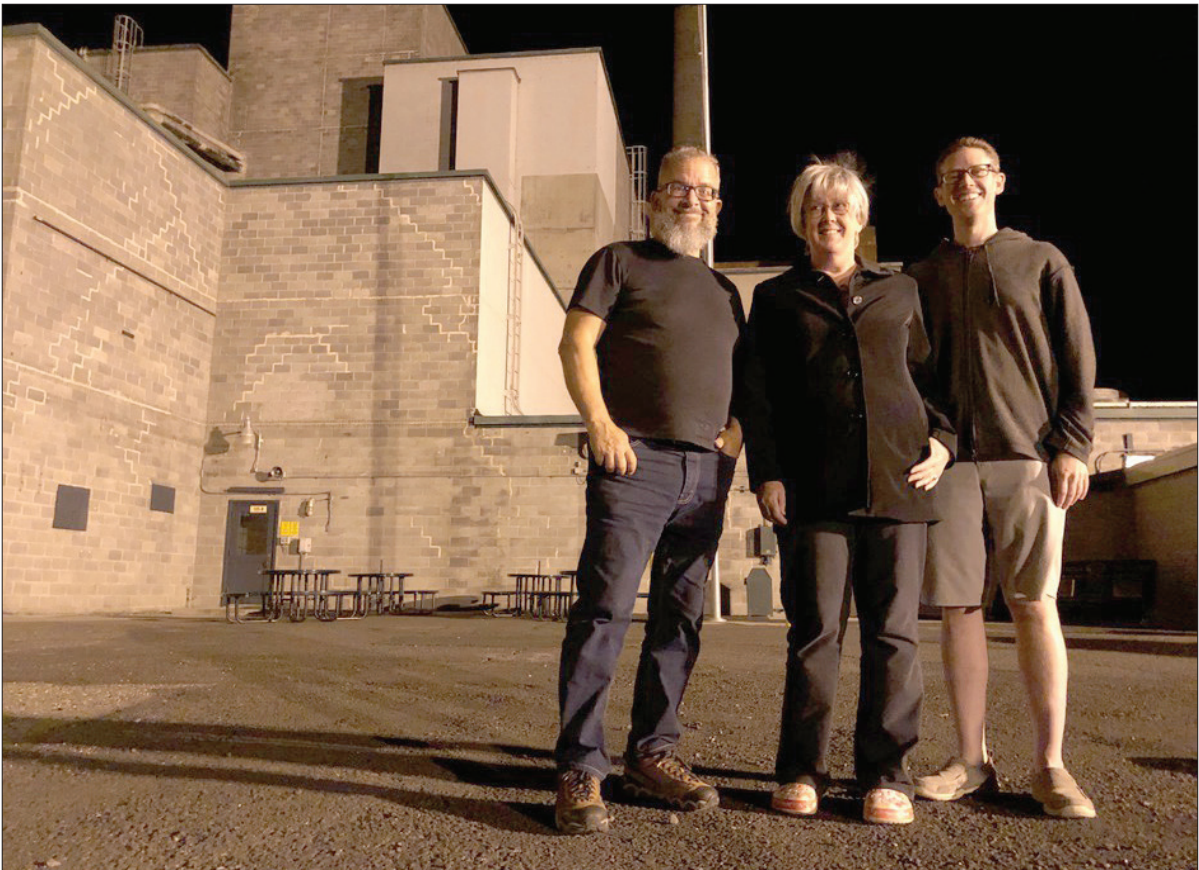
Musical explores nuclear worker dreams and nightmares

‘Nuclear Dreams’ highlights plight of people who work and live near Hanford in Washington’s Tri-Cities

By ANNA KING
Oregon Public Broadcasting

HANFORD, Wash. — You’ve heard the grim numbers about the Hanford nuclear site — the millions of gallons of radioactive waste and the growing price tag for cleanup. But now, the creators of a new musical work called “Nuclear Dreams” highlight the dreams and nightmares of people who work and live near Hanford in Washington’s Tri-Cities. On a recent weeknight, an orchestra with strings, bells, marimba and flute, along with Seattle-area soloists and the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, practice a choral concert called an oratorio. “There is a sadness in the soul,” the male soloist sings. “A sadness in the soul.”

Hanford worker Nancy Welliver wrote the lyrics. A song titled “Radioactive Roses” talks about her own dream of Hanford. “I was walking around the B Reactor looking for this gift for my father and somebody started singing,” Welliver said as she began to cry. “Somebody started singing and all the songs became flowers. And they fell out of the air and into my arms.” Composer Reg Unterseher said



From left, Reg Unterseher, composer, Nancy Welliver, writer, and Mid-Columbia Mastersingers artistic director Justin Raffa in front of Hanford’s B Reactor.

the music and lyrics center on the dreams of nuclear workers. “It’s about how do normal people react to what seems to the outside world as really extraordinary,” Unterseher said. “And the things that we’ve got quite used to in the Tri-Cities, things that we think are perfectly normal, everybody goes, ‘What? That’s strange.’”

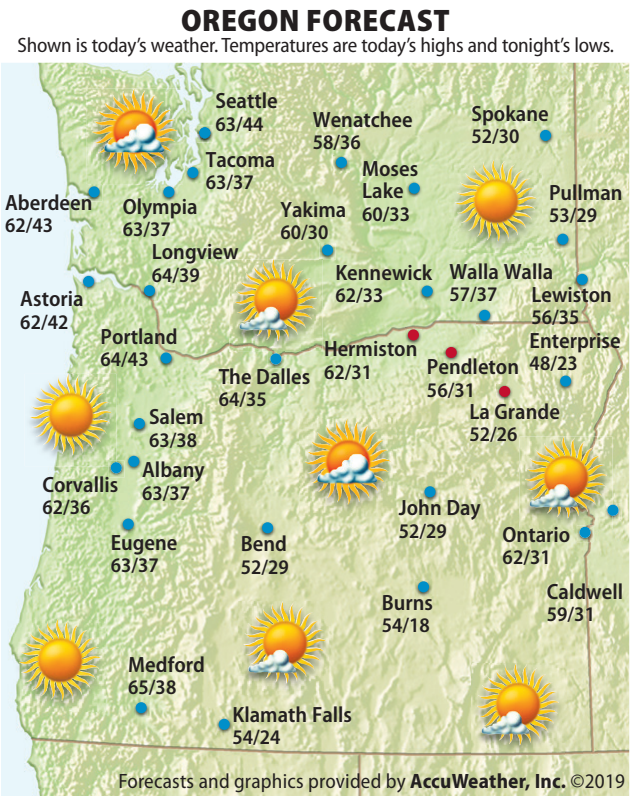
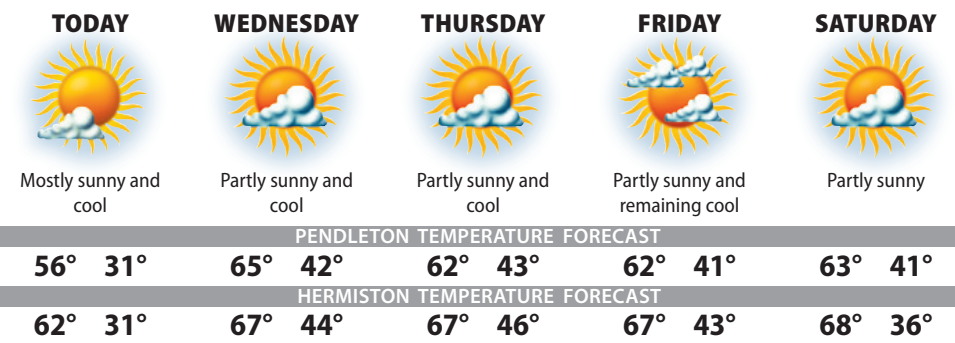
For example: that he can see a nuclear reactor from his house’s back deck. Or that he has a friend who was on the team that won the Nobel Prize from studying black holes in space at the LIGO facility at Hanford. The chorus is made up of Tri-Cities residents. Audiences for the upcoming performances will be

based to the B Reactor—the world’s first full-scale nuclear reactor — now a national historic landmark. The building is surrounded by sagebrush. Inside, the musicians and choir set up right in front of the nuclear reactor — with flashing yellow lights and a constant mechanical hum. Musical chimes ring out as they’re shifted into place and ham-

mers whack. The space is all hard surfaces, high ceilings and a reflective sound quality. The choir calls it the “cathedral of the nuclear age.” A female soloist belts out, “There is a radiance in the soul.” **Dreams and oral histories** To write her piece, Welliver adapted her graduate school paper about dreams and oral histories of Hanford workers. Welliver was inspired by Freud and Jung and mythology. “(Hanford has) got heroes, and warriors, and sadness, heartbreak, triumph, it’s got all that stuff in it. It’s just this great story,” Welliver said. She said our culture is so hurried, so literal and so materialistic. “I think it’s really important sometimes to go back to these ancient stories,” Welliver said. “And kind of remember our roots and what makes us human.” **When night became day**

B Reactor made plutonium for bombs, and the oratorio includes an oral history of early atomic bomb test explosions, when night became day. The female parts sing, “It was completely daylight, at midnight,” while the male part of the chorus sings low, “Whoever is listening to this.” Welliver hopes “Nuclear Dreams” can heal some of the complex history and feelings of Hanford’s past mission to help make nuclear weapons.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	49°	32°
Normals	71°	45°
Records	89° (1992)	27° (1911)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.11"
Normal month to date	0.56"
Year to date	10.85"
Last year to date	6.52"
Normal year to date	8.94"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	36°
Normals	73°	43°
Records	88° (1976)	27° (1933)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.15"
Normal month to date	0.44"
Year to date	4.76"
Last year to date	5.15"
Normal year to date	6.56"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	WSW 3-6	ESE 3-6
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	SW 4-8

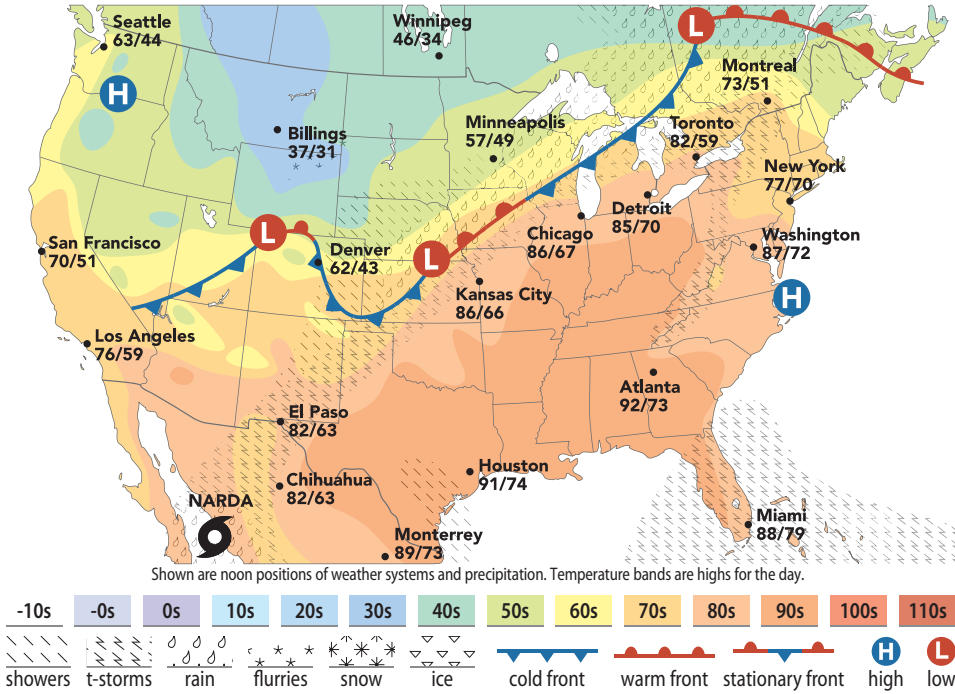
SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:53 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:36 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:23 a.m.
Moonset today	8:41 p.m.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 102° in Jasper, Ala. Low 8° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Strike averted at public universities

Union, universities agree to tentative 2-year contract

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A looming strike by thousands of workers at Oregon’s seven public universities, including Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, has been avoided after the workers settled with management early Saturday morning. The two-year contract was settled during talks at the Oregon Institute of Technology campus in Wilsonville. Workers and the universities had reached an impasse after months of negotiations over cost of living increases, yearly pay bumps, benefits and the cost of meals for food service workers. The workers, represented by Service Employees International Union Local 503, were preparing to strike

unless an agreement was reached by 7 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 30, the first day of classes for many of the universities. The union reported that the final agreement they reached includes: • The largest cost of living adjustment in over a decade, • No leaps in health care costs • A 48-hour leave bank that employees can use in inclement weather. University workers had lamented that they were getting short shrift compared to other workers on the state’s payroll — especially after lawmakers voted to boost the amount of money going to public universities by \$100 million over the next two years. The median classified university worker makes \$36,000 per year, according to SEIU Local 503. Classified staff work in jobs ranging from food service to information technology.

The union had railed against what it said were sky-high salaries for top administrators, bloated management and modest pay raises compared to other state workers. The universities had countered that they had made fair offers. “Workers stuck together to demand a contract that respects the critical role they play in supporting our students and keeping our campuses running,” said Melissa Unger, executive director of SEIU Local 503, in a statement Saturday. “Together, we fought back take-aways proposed by management on wages, health care, steps and personal days, and won higher wages for all workers. This hard-fought victory is a testament to the strength and solidarity of Oregon’s frontline university workers.” There will be a vote among workers in the next few weeks to ratify the contract, according to the union. But until then, they will show up for their jobs as usual.

BRIEFLY

Man injured after slipping over Washington waterfall

MONROE, Wash. — A man is in critical condition after slipping and falling over a Washington state waterfall, which authorities say is not the first accident at the site. KOMO-TV reported Sunday that the man in his mid-20s was transported to a hospital in Monroe after the accident Saturday. The Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office says the man was apparently intoxicated when he fell off the cliff side of the waterfall southeast of Everett. Authorities say he survived despite being in the water for about an hour. Snohomish County Fire District 7 official Heather Chadwick says, “With the cold water, it gives you a little bit better of a chance.” Chadwick says the waterfall on Youngs Creek has been the site of “multiple rescues” in the past.

Train derails north of Salem, cause under investigation

SALEM — Authorities say a train derailed north of Salem early Sunday, breaking a utility pole that resulted in power outages and causing a small fire. Michael Williams, a spokesman for Portland and Western Railroad, said by email that there were no injuries and no hazardous materials were involved. He says the cause is under investigation. He says the incident involved the first eight cars of a 29-car train and occurred at Hopmere. Of the eight cars, he says three carried wood pulp, three carried potassium sulfate and two were empty lumber cars. Fire officials in a release said a small, smoldering fire started in brush as a result of the downed lines and was extinguished. — Associated Press

CORRECTION: In the Page 3A story “Pendleton to host drone symposium” published Tuesday, Sept. 24, the story misstated the dates of the AUVSI Cascade Chapter Fall Symposium. The symposium will take place Oct. 2 and 3.

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