

Controversial former sheriff lands new police job

Former Grant County sheriff Glenn Palmer hired as marine deputy with Sherman County

By JONATHAN LEVINSON
Oregon Public Broadcasting

JOHN DAY — Glenn Palmer, the former Grant County sheriff who had a controversy-riddled, 20-year stint in office, has taken a new job as a marine deputy with the Sherman County Sheriff's Office.

Palmer lost his bid for a sixth term as sheriff in November 2020.

The Sherman County sheriff's marine patrol is a seasonal operation responsible for providing boater safety services, doing boat inspections and conducting patrols along the county's stretch of the Hood River.

"We advertised through the newspapers and we advertised on our website," said Sherman County Sheriff Brad Lohrey, who added it's not an easy position to fill. "We got one applicant and that was him."

The marine patrol is a part-time position that is only staffed Friday, Saturday and Sunday from the end of May to Sept. 1.

Palmer, a self-described "constitutional sheriff" who believes the sheriff occupies the highest executive position in the county, made a name for himself when he met with leaders of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation in 2016. Palmer called the armed militants "patriots," even as they barricaded themselves inside government



Thomas Boyd/The Oregonian, File

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, left, hugs former Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer in 2015 as they enter a meeting with homeowners in Canyon City. Palmer, who lost his bid for a sixth term as sheriff in November 2020, has taken a new job as a marine deputy with the Sherman County Sheriff's Office.

buildings with a wide array of weapons.

During his tenure, Palmer also deputized his brother, along with nearly 70 other Grant County residents without law enforcement training, refused to enforce state gun laws, and allegedly used his power to intimidate people who challenged him or his political viewpoints.

Numerous complaints have been lodged against Palmer since 2016. He briefly offered his resigna-

tion in 2019 after a retired Oregon State Police trooper filed an ethics complaint alleging Palmer had failed to return his stolen property. Palmer quickly rescinded his resignation and stayed in office.

In August 2020, the Oregon Department of Public Safety and Standards declined to take action against Palmer stemming from that complaint.

Other complaints allege Palmer and his department had a policy of

not enforcing restraining orders. A DPSST investigator determined the allegations were outside the agency's jurisdiction.

Boaters from Portland and along the Columbia River Gorge this summer might interact with Deputy Palmer, who has recently taken to social media to make fun of Black hairstyles, mock President Joe Biden's stutter, undermine COVID-19 restrictions, and spread misinformation about vaccines. On

May 2, the day before starting in his new role, he called Democrats "the enemy in our midst."

Eighteen percent of Sherman County voters and 30% of neighboring Wasco County voters are registered Democrats.

Palmer did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

Palmer's social media activity, however, walks a fine line with Sherman County department policy, which restricts what can be said in an official capacity or while representing the department.

"I will look into it," Sheriff Lohrey said. "I haven't looked at his Facebook page, if he has one, in forever."

Lohrey said checking social media is part of the department's normal hiring process, but he wasn't sure if Palmer's had been reviewed by the undersheriff who oversaw the hiring.

Lohrey has also come under fire for his own social media use. In 2018, he took to the department's Facebook page to post a photo of a local activist who had angered the jail commander when she placed a protest sign next to her table at a restaurant where the two were eating.

In the post, Lohrey called the activist's actions disgusting. She soon after received death threats against her and her children.

At the time, Lohrey said he would only take the post down if she apologized.

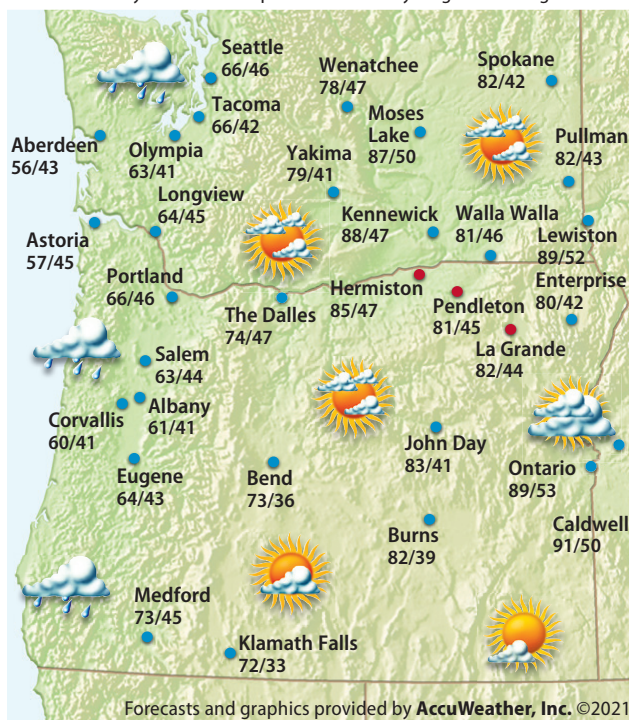
Palmer started training with the Sherman County Sheriff's Office on May 3 and will start patrol Memorial Day weekend.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Breezy this afternoon	Mostly cloudy, breezy and cooler	Some sun with winds subsiding	Considerable clouds	Mostly sunny and nice
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
81° 45°	64° 40°	67° 46°	66° 45°	70° 42°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
85° 47°	68° 41°	72° 51°	71° 48°	76° 46°

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	78°	39°
Normals	68°	44°
Records	96° (1966)	29° (1904)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.26"
Normal month to date 0.17"
Year to date 3.82"
Last year to date 5.30"
Normal year to date 5.28"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	81°	40°
Normals	70°	44°
Records	95° (1966)	29° (1982)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.18"
Normal month to date 0.20"
Year to date 1.46"
Last year to date 0.56"
Normal year to date 4.19"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 12-25
Pendleton	WNW 7-14	W 10-20

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:35 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:09 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:00 a.m.
Moonset today	3:07 p.m.

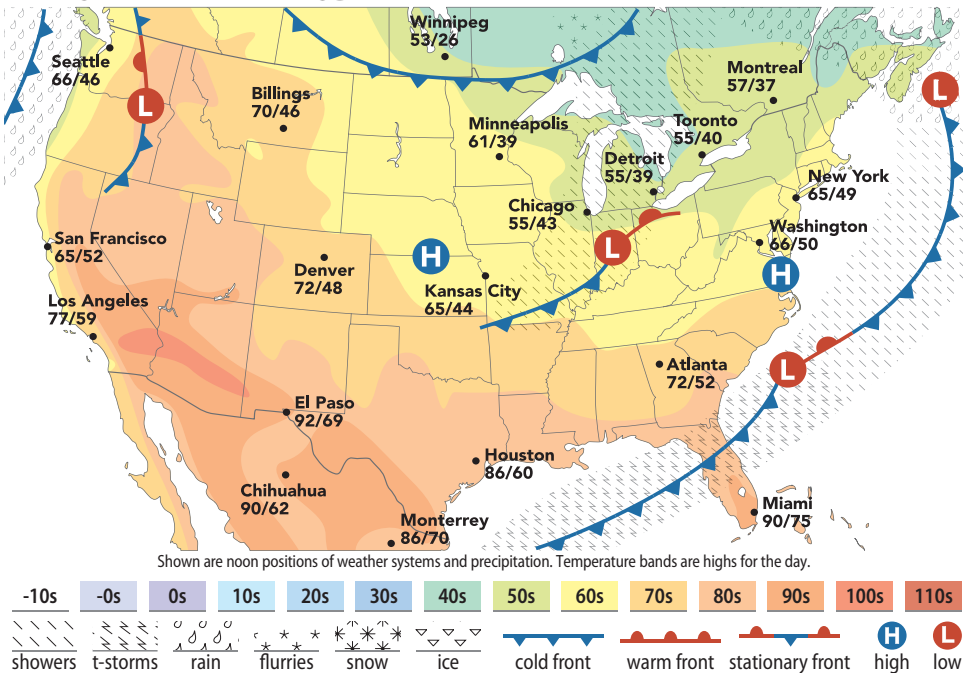
New First Full Last
May 11 May 19 May 26 June 2

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 100° in Needles, Calif. Low 14° in Willow City, N.D.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Wolves killed two calves near Keating

Hunter reports attack in rural Baker County

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Wolves from the Keating Pack in Baker County killed a pair of 2-month-old calves on a public land cattle grazing allotment north of Keating Valley last week.

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Baker City office, said his investigation on Friday, April 30, showed ample evidence that wolves killed the calves.

"It was a classic case (of wolf depredation)," he said. "It was pretty straightforward."

Ratliff said a hunter who reported the attack — not the

rancher who owns the calves — was driving through the allotment on the morning of April 30 and saw one dead calf and a wolf standing on it.

The hunter texted Ratliff, who arrived at the spot later that day.

Ratliff said he found two dead calves about 40 yards apart. The calves were born this winter and were among a herd of 57 cow-calf pairs that were moved to the allotment, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, on April 16.

Based on the absence of any evidence that scavenging birds had fed on either carcass, Ratliff said he believes wolves killed the calves either late on April 29 or early on April 30.

He said there were "struggle scenes" and wolf tracks around each of the calves.

Ratliff said both carcasses had bite marks that, based on

their location and depth, are consistent with wolves rather than smaller predators, such as coyotes.

Ratliff said he also found splotches of blood on vegetation that was still standing and had not been trampled.

That's further evidence that the calves were attacked while alive, he said, because when bloody vegetation is not matted, it means the animals were standing when they bled.

Ratliff said blood on flattened vegetation, by contrast, is consistent with wolves or other predators dragging a carcass, or part of a carcass, across the ground before, or while, feeding on it. In that case it's possible that the calf died from another cause and that the predator only fed on the carcass.

The Keating Pack consists of eight wolves, according to the annual wolf report ODFW released in April.

IN BRIEF

Inslee: No new COVID-19 restrictions in Washington for now

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on Tuesday, May 4, said all of the state's counties will remain in their current phase of the state's economic reopening plan and won't face more restrictions because new COVID cases are leveling off after a recent spike.

Inslee said there will be a two-week pause as the state continues to evaluate coronavirus activity in Washington.

The surprise announcement came as several more counties were expected to roll back to Phase 2 of the plan, which includes reduced capacity for indoor dining and gyms,

based on case counts and hospitalizations. But Inslee said the most recent weekend data from the Department of Health shows coronavirus activity reaching a plateau in the state.

"The approach to this pandemic, there's no real playbook for COVID," Inslee said. "We are making very difficult decisions based on the best science we have."

Currently in Washington, just four of the state's 39 counties are in the more restrictive Phase 2: Cowlitz, Pierce and Whitman, which were rolled back from Phase 3 last month, and Ferry County, where health officials on April 30 voluntarily moved back because of a recent outbreak.

In Phase 3 restaurants, bars and gyms can operate at 50% capacity. At Phase 2, that's reduced to 25%.

— Associated Press

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