

Heat:

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“We’re slammed,” he said. As the heat wave across the western United States continues to spread, it’s also taking longer to get parts in, particularly for the old R22 units that have been phased out.

Draper said to help their air conditioner stay in good working order, it’s important people make sure their filters are clean and so are their outside units, which can become clogged with cottonwood fluff or other debris.

He said as temperatures soar above 110 degrees next week, people will need to have reasonable expectations for how cool they can get the inside of their home.

“One hundred and fifteen degrees outside really stresses AC units,” he said.

People can help reduce that stress by keeping their blinds closed and lights off as much as possible, he said, and not running appliances, such as ovens, that will add heat to the house. They also should reduce traffic in and out of the house as much as possible, and try opening the windows if it cools down at night.

As people crank up the air conditioning, Steve Meyers, spokesperson for Umatilla Electric Cooperative, said the utility will be closely watching weather conditions and system loads. While extreme weather does put additional demand on the power supply, he said UEC has made it a priority to maintain its infrastructure to reliably provide power in all kinds of conditions.

“Our power supply is sufficient to meet the expected spike in demand from air conditioning and irrigation during this extreme heat wave,” he wrote in an email.

He said in a typical year, UEC provides more than \$1 million in rebates and



Cattle find shade under trees on the edge of a field on Friday, June 25, 2021, along Stanfield Meadows Road outside of Stanfield.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

\$300,000 in low-interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades in members’ homes and businesses. Those investments help reduce the demand on UEC’s system, he said.

Tom Guantt, spokesperson for Pacific Power, said Pacific Power is not expecting any disruptions to the power supply during the heat wave either.

“The system is in good shape, and we have contingency plans for any unforeseen challenges that may arise,” he said. “At the same time, we urge customers to be mindful about their power use both to save power and money.”

In a news release, Pacific Power suggested customers should set their thermostats at 78 degrees while they’re home and 85 degrees while they’re out.

Protecting animals

Darren Cox, owner of Baker’s Pond Farm outside Hermiston, said livestock tend to weather the Eastern Oregon climate well, but do need a little extra protection when the heat reaches the extremes

expected for next week.

He said he sprays the chickens and ducks with water when it gets especially hot, and when it’s up over 100 degrees sometimes the goats need wetted down too.

“They hate water,” he said of the goats, “but we do spray them when they get hot. You don’t have to do as much with cows. They’re used to the elements.”

The farm’s barn has a big awning where animals can congregate in the shade, he said, and they will have fans running. Pigs don’t sweat, so Cox said he’ll be making sure they have plenty of water and mud to roll around in.

One of the most important things will be making sure animals have “plenty of cool, clean water” in their troughs as they go drink more than usual, Cox said.

“You can go down and buy blocks of ice, and put them in the trough,” he said. “When it’s really hot, on the 115 (degree) day, that’s probably what we’ll do here.”

He’ll be keeping his dog in the air-conditioned house,

he said, and if any of the other animals are showing signs of heat exhaustion, they can come inside too.

“When temperatures rise, we do all too often see cases of heat stroke in pets here in Pendleton,” said Dr. Barbara Panata of the Pendleton Veterinary Clinic. “Signs most often include excessive panting and drooling, difficulty breathing, reluctance to move and collapse.”

To prevent these scary and sometimes tragic scenarios, she said there are a few actions owners can take.

Make sure all pets have ready access to water, shade and ventilation. Ideally, she said, owners should leave pets in a home with air conditioning. And they should be under supervision when outdoors in the hot summer.

“Not only is drinking water essential, but it can also be very helpful to provide water to get them wet,” Panata said. “Dogs don’t sweat all over their bodies to dissipate heat the way we do (they sweat through their paws), so getting pets wet can be helpful. Some

dogs enjoy kiddie pools.”

Walk or run with pets in the early, cool part of the day, and before the asphalt gets hot, and make sure they get breaks with access to water.

Owners should take extra care with breeds with shorter muzzles, such as pugs and bull dogs, she said. They are at a higher risk for overheating because they are not as effective at dissipating heat as other breeds. Likewise, pet owners should take precautions with animals that are older, overweight or have medical conditions, such as a respiratory or cardiac disease. These “higher risk patients,” she said, would do best with air conditioning and not being out into the heat.

“If you have concerns that your pet might be showing signs of heat stroke, provide them with cool water, wet their fur, and act quickly to get them to a veterinary clinic,” Panata said.

And do not leave pets in vehicles unattended, she stressed. No cracked window will compensate for the oven created within a vehicle in hot temperatures.

Oregon’s good Samaritan law, which has been in effect for four years, allows someone to enter a vehicle to remove a child or domestic animal in imminent danger of suffering harm without facing criminal or civil liability under certain requirements. That law could get a workout with this heat.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said police are supposed to base their actions on what is reasonable in the circumstances, and that’s a measuring stick that can apply to the good Samaritan law.

“Is it reasonable to leave an animal in a vehicle with no ventilation?” he said. “The answer is no, it’s not reasonable.”

He said police would like to be involved if someone has to break into a car to save a child or pet, but the department’s resources are limited.

If a child or pet is in imminent danger, he said, don’t wait for the police.

“There is no real justification for people or animals to be left inside vehicles in the weather that’s on the horizon for us,” Edmiston said.

Local resources

Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram said the high temperatures raise concerns for people’s well-being.

“With the heat coming, what we worry about the most are the elderly and people who don’t have the means to cool themselves down,” he said.

Byram encouraged people to check on their family and friends more often during the next week. Protracted heat tends to fray the nerves, he said, and police see more nighttime activity than daytime activity.

People seeking shelter from the heat in Umatilla County can do so at several places.

The Hermiston Public Library on 235 E. Gladys Ave. will be open at limited capacity June 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be closed on June 26 but will reopen from 10-5 on June 27, again from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Mark Rose, the library director.

The Pendleton Warming Station on 715 S.E. Court Ave. will expand its hours and act as a cooling station during the the weekend. It will open from 1-6 p.m. each day through June 27. The station is seeking volunteers to remain open for those needing shelter next week. The station will have water bottles, Gatorade and some snacks, according to Dwight Johnson, executive director at Neighbor 2 Neighbor Pendleton, the nonprofit that operates the station.

And the Fellowship Hall at the Wesley United Methodist Church on 816 S. Main St. in Milton-Freewater will be open as a cooling station from June 26-29, 12-6 p.m., according to its Facebook page.

Tangney:

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because it needed to be done.

“He had this way of always standing up for what was right,” T.J. said. “He lived his values.”

“He was the embodiment of that quote: ‘Be the change you want to see in the world,’” said granddaughter Tammy Fisher.

After retiring, he worked for the city of Pendleton part time doing maintenance and janitorial work just to stay useful.

“He retired again at 85,” Maxine said.

Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock got to know Tangney while planning celebrations for WWII and Korea veterans. Murdock said he felt heartbroken upon learning of Tangney’s death.

“I believe Tom did much of what he did to honor his brother’s memory and that of his comrades,” Murdock said. “He lived with honor and he will be remembered with honor.”

For Tangney, the beginning of the end came about a month ago. He had been about ready to leave for a Buddy Poppy event. His shoes were shined. His VFW hat sat snugly on his head. Then he passed out and fell in his living room and the ambulance was called. The incident started a month-long health decline. Before then, T.J. marveled, his grandfather seemed strong, mowing his lawn several times a week. Before an air ambulance flew him to Walla Walla, Tom fretted about Maxine.

“In the helicopter,” Fisher said, “he told them, ‘My wife, she can’t drive. I have to take her to get her hair done.’”

Maxine said her husband, the good-looking boy who

attracted her at Crook County High School almost 70 years ago, was a tough Marine with a tender side. He was an excellent husband, father and grandfather and lived an idyllic purpose-driven life.

Once in a while, disrespect toward veterans or the flag brought Tangney up short, however. In 2008, vandals shattered a marker at the Bishop Memorial Garden in Pendleton bearing the names of Umatilla casualties in World War II. Pieces of granite littered the sidewalk.

Tangney, commander of VFW Post No. 922 at the time, struggled to contain his emotions.

“I have a hard time understanding why someone would do a thing like this,” he said. “This is honoring the memory of those killed in World War II.”

He was heartened, though, when community members donated money to help the VFW rebuild the monument.

Tangney considered the flag one of the strongest symbols of respect for veterans and the country they defended. Fisher said her grandfather was an expert in the flag code, which specifies the dos and don’ts of flag flying. It should always be illuminated, for example, and it should never become tattered. If he noticed an improperly flown flag, she said, he wasn’t afraid to march up to the person’s door and share his knowledge.

The family invites all who loved Tangney to gather Wednesday, June 30, at 1 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center to celebrate his life. At the bottom of a flyer announcing the service is written, “In lieu of flowers please consider an act of service to your community or a donation to the Pendleton Military Tribute.”

Poster:

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“The other part that spoke Pendleton to me, and what people across the country associate with it, is that it is held on grass, so I added that,” said Barry, whose signature also is in green, by the grass, so that it doesn’t overtake the artwork.

Once Barry was done with the artwork, he and the board realized it was missing something.

“I knew how iconic the chutes are,” Barry said. “I had to have the right chutes. There are chutes, and then there is a walkway. You want to get the right chutes, and the right colors.”

Barry chose chutes 9-11, which are yellow, green and red. They add just the right pop of color on the black background behind the horse.

The casual onlooker likely won’t notice the subtle changes Barry made to the bronc rider and the horse.

“There is an Irish influence,” Barry said. “The rider doesn’t have dark hair, but more of a reddish brown. Also, the bottom of the horse’s feet are light in the original. You aren’t going to have light coming from under the horse, so I made them black.”

Barry finished the poster in April, and after final touches were added and approved a graphic artist added the logo and date with the Round-Up’s specific font and size.

“That font is part of Pendleton Woolen Mills, the Pendleton Round-Up and Pendleton Whisky,” Round-Up General Manager Erika Patton said. “It has to be exact.”



Mikal Wright/Pendleton Round-Up

Rowdy Barry poses for a recent photo at the Let ‘Er Buck sign in Pendleton with the poster he created for the 2021 Pendleton Round-Up.



Annie Fowler/East Oregonian

A closeup image shows details in Rowdy Barry’s 2021 Pendleton Round-Up poster.

The signed limited edition posters 1-10 are being framed, and six have already been pre-sold. Post-

ers 11-50 hit the store Friday, June 18. They sold for \$100 each, and were gone before the end of the day.

The official poster, unsigned, sells in the store and online for \$20, and has been flying out the door. They are headed to places across the country, including New York, Tennessee and Texas.

Only 600 posters were ordered, and through June 21, 186 had been sold.

“We didn’t want a bunch of posters left over by the end of the year,” Patton said. “We will order more if we are out before Round-Up. This is the first time it has sold that quickly.”

The Pendleton Round-Up poster is one of many Barry has done in his career. He’s also created them for the Farm-City Pro Rodeo, Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days and the Sisters Rodeo, to name a few. He also has done artwork for rodeo programs and does commission pieces.

Wallace Smith did the first official Round-Up poster in 1925. Before that, various businesses created any posters. The first posters the Round-Up commissioner were in 1989 and 1990 and done by Boots Reynolds.

“They were kind of a busy cartoonish poster with a million different things going,” Patton said. “It was a comedic type of perspective.”

There were no posters from 1991 to 2001, then Buck Taylor stepped in and created posters through 2012.

The posters disappeared again from 2013-15. From 2016-19 different artists created pieces, but none have resonated like Barry’s.

“You just don’t know each year how popular it will be,” Patton said. “He is popular, and he knows a lot of people.”

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