

# Archaeologists monitor demolition of Gleason Pool in John Day

By JUSTIN DAVIS  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Gleason Pool will soon transition from a demolition site to an archaeological site.

Archaeologists from Southern Oregon University have been monitoring the demolition to safeguard any artifacts and other objects that may be of historical value that might be uncovered during the demolition process.

Work to demolish Gleason Pool began May 23, after some delays associated with the coordination of demolition crews and archaeologists so both could be on site at the same time. Demolition of the pool buildings was completed Friday, May 27.

Chelsea Rose, a Southern Oregon University historical archaeologist and director of the SOU Laboratory of Anthropology, said there are a number of reasons an archaeologist would be monitoring the demolition of a facility such as Gleason Pool.

“We don’t know what’s under that pool, and we don’t know how they prepared the land before they built it,” she said. “There has been some debate about the mound that the pool is on. Our research indicates that it was a natural rise and they dug into it, so one of our main motivations



Archaeologist Katie Johnson looks on as a crew works May 23, 2022, to demolish Gleason Pool in John Day.

being out here this week is to see what that ground surface underneath looks like.”

Rose said nobody is expecting to find treasure under Gleason Pool, but there are other things that would interest archaeologists.

“If there is a board or something that we can link to a building, that is treasure to us,” she said. “We want to try to tie the footprint of these historical structures to this landscape so we can learn about how the flow of

this community was and what life was like.”

Rose said that information will be shared with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, which purchased the pool property and neighboring Gleason

Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle

Park for an expansion of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. A stone and wood structure on the site, dating from the Civil War era, served as the hub of a thriving Chinese community for many years.

One of the things Rose expects to find is structural remains of buildings.

“I’m talking about an alignment of stones or a piece of wood or some nails, and we’ve already seen some nails. All of that helps us figure out where exactly these buildings were so we can rebuild this community virtually. And it also tells us how these buildings were constructed.”

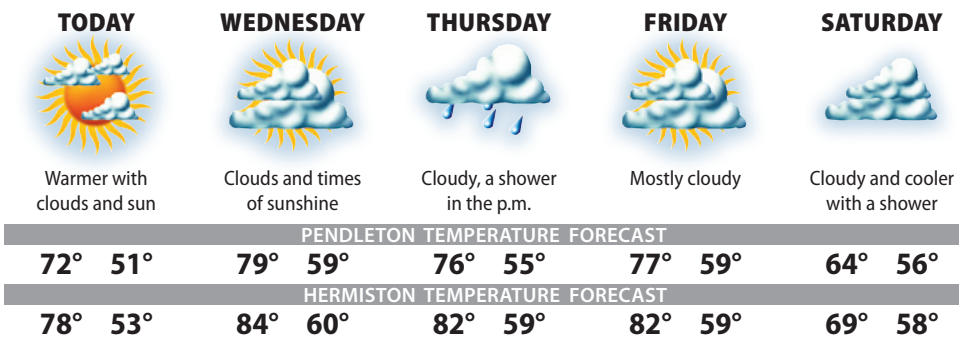
Rose said all of these finds mean nothing if you don’t know how to interpret them.

Katie Johnson is the other archaeologist on site. She stressed that treasure hunting or going to the Gleason Pool demolition site to conduct your own archaeological research is illegal, both on the state and federal level.

“We’re here to document the artifacts,” Johnson said. “All of the artifacts will return here and be held here in the county and the (Kam Wah Chung) museum.”

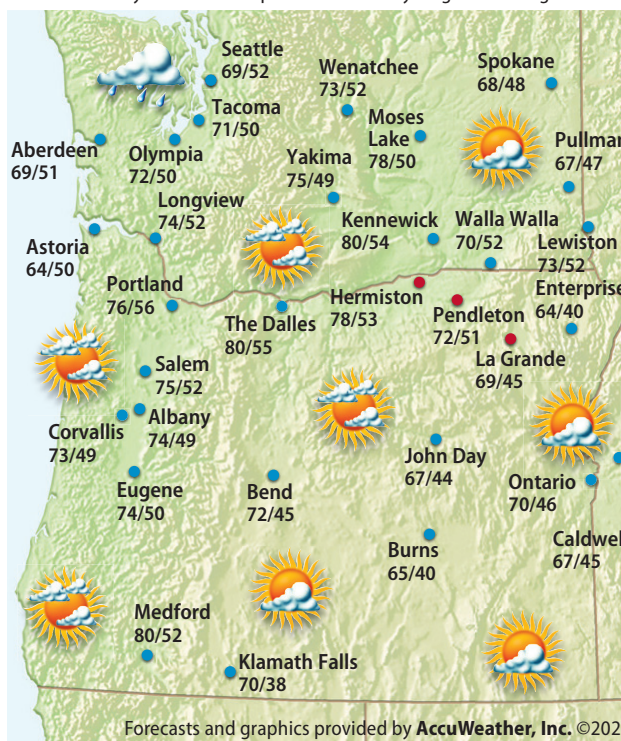
Both Rose and Johnson will be back in John Day in July to conduct a formal archaeological survey of the Gleason Pool demolition site. Part of that work will involve an archaeological dig that will be open for the public to participate in. Details regarding the date and time of the public dig will be relayed by the Eagle in the near future.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



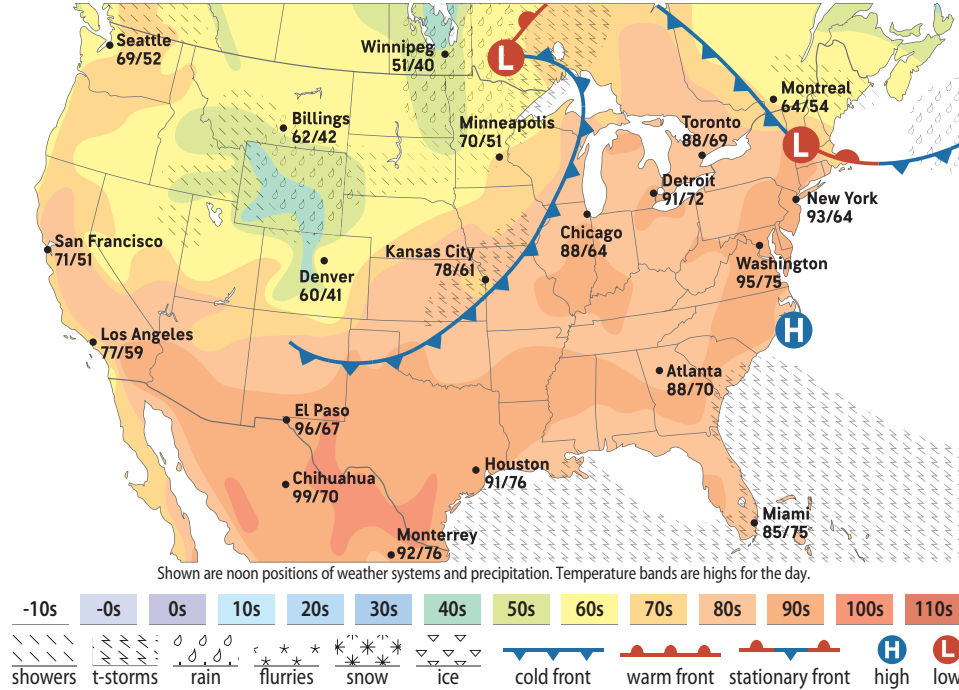
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	47°
Normals	75°	49°
Records	102° (1931)	36° (1978)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"	
Month to date	3.04"	
Normal month to date	1.45"	
Year to date	8.66"	
Last year to date	4.02"	
Normal year to date	6.79"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	48°
Normals	79°	50°
Records	102° (1983)	34° (1979)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace	
Month to date	1.90"	
Normal month to date	0.80"	
Year to date	5.79"	
Last year to date	2.23"	
Normal year to date	4.35"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 4-8	NE 4-8
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	NNE 4-8
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:10 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:36 p.m.	
Moonrise today	5:44 a.m.	
Moonset today	10:18 p.m.	
First	Full	Last
June 7	June 14	June 20
		New
		June 28

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 101° in Sweetwater, Texas Low 21° in Dakota Hill, Colo.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## Second bird flu quarantine established

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

NYSSA — A small portion of Malheur County in Eastern Oregon is under quarantine to restrict the movement of poultry after bird flu was detected in neighboring Idaho.

The USDA requires states to impose a regional quarantine whenever there is a confirmed case of bird flu to keep the disease from spreading. The quarantined area must extend at least 10 kilometers — 6.2 miles — around the infected property.

On May 19, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture confirmed a case of bird flu in a backyard flock in Canyon County along the Idaho-Oregon border. Part of the quarantine reaches into Oregon, south of the farming community of Nyssa.

Dr. Ryan Scholz, state veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, said the quarantine will remain in place until responders can determine if there are any additional cases.



Scholz

“We don’t want those birds moving to somewhere else and potentially spreading the disease,” Scholz said.

ODA also has established a regional quarantine in Lane

County after bird flu was confirmed in a backyard poultry flock on May 17. The quarantine extends from Eugene and Springfield north along Interstate 5 to Harrisburg and the Coburg Hills.

So far, Scholz said there have been no additional cases of bird flu found in the area. “We’ve been doing a lot of sick bird calls,” he said. “None of them have been influenza yet. That’s been

good news.”

How long the quarantines last depends on whether officials confirm any more bird flu cases, Scholz said. ODA conducts two rounds of surveillance which can take up to several weeks, though Scholz added the Malheur County quarantine is smaller geographically and in a more lightly populated area.

Scholz said he anticipated bird flu would arrive in Oregon after a bald eagle in British Columbia tested positive in March. Oregon, Washington and Idaho are all part of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south route for migrating birds and waterfowl.

“We weren’t sure what that timeframe was going to be, whether it was this spring or next fall,” he said.

While Oregon has seen relatively fewer cases compared to Washington and Idaho, Scholz said those birds still are on the move, carrying a risk of more infections.

## ODFW extends kill permit for one wolf

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

JOSEPH — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has extended a kill permit for one wolf from the Chesnimnus pack in Wallowa County.

The original permit was issued April 29 for two wolves after ODFW confirmed the pack was responsible for preying on cattle twice between April 25 and 27 on a public grazing allotment north of Joseph, resulting in three dead calves.

Ranchers in Eastern Oregon can request a kill permit under the state’s Wolf Conservation and Management Plan if ODFW confirms two depredations in nine months. They must also be using non-lethal deterrents

and remove all potential wolf attractants to qualify.

The producer, Tom Birkmaier, legally shot one wolf under the permit on May 3. Since then, ODFW stated there has been one more “probable” depredation in the area and wolf activity and risk to livestock remains high.

According to ODFW’s own investigations, biologists have confirmed one other depredation by the Wenaha pack in Wallowa County; three by the Cornucopia pack and one by the Keating pack in neighboring Baker County; and one by the Desolation pack in Grant County.

“Evidence indicates wolves are testing cattle, with cattle showing signs of stress including breaking through

a fence in one incident,” the agency reported.

ODFW extended Birkmaier’s permit through June 14 after it was set to expire on May 24. It allows him to shoot one additional wolf to protect his cattle in pastures where they graze.

“The producer continues to use non-lethal measures including moving their cattle to a different pasture and increased human presence,” ODFW added.

Biologists say killing another Chesnimnus wolf would not impact the pack’s breeding success. The Chesnimnus pack numbers 7-8 adult and yearling wolves, and their breeding female may still be in the den. None of the wolves have a working GPS or radio collar.

**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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