

Speakers: Nuclear power a 'perfect' fit for nation's needs

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

PASCO — Nuclear energy fits the bill “perfectly” for the nation’s future energy needs, speakers told lawmakers and agricultural stakeholders.

“If we make the right choices today, 30 years from now, we’ll have just one question: Why didn’t we do it sooner?” said Maria Korsnick, president and CEO of the Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Pacific Northwest consumers would save money by including nuclear energy in the mix of electricity generation, Korsnick said, citing a study from Energy Northwest, a public power agency based in Richland, Washington.

Energy Northwest CEO Bob Schuetz said the region’s hydroelectric system is unlikely to expand. He pointed to “never-ending” attempts to breach dams and the challenges of maintaining reliability in the face of increasing electrical demand.

“We can have a decarbonized electrical system, we can support the load growth necessary ... and we can do it without compromising a reliable and resilient electric grid,” Schuetz said. “But we can’t wait until the last minute to create the infrastructure necessary to do this.”

Schuetz pointed to enthusiasm across the country to “overbuild” renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar. Limitations include intermittent power, relatively short lifetimes and the large amount of land required.



Timothy J. Park/Energy Northwest

The Columbia Generating Station, operated by Energy Northwest near Richland, Washington, produces 1,207 megawatts of power and is the third largest electricity generator in Washington state behind the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams. Nuclear power plants produce electricity without releasing any carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, proponents say.

“If your actual goal is 100% carbon-free, you simply cannot do it on renewables, no matter how much you’re willing to invest,” Schuetz said.

The speakers addressed lawmakers June 2 in Pasco as part of the Congressional Western Caucus at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Thirty years from now, Korsnick

predicted, there will be hundreds of new nuclear reactors — from large models to handle gigawatt sizes, to small modular reactors, to micro reactors.

Current reactors also must remain online as long as possible, Korsnick said, calling them “carbon-free powerhouses,” producing 20% of the electric supply in the U.S., and more than

50% of the carbon-free electricity.

The new reactors would serve remote areas, operating 10 to 15 years without needing refueling, Korsnick said.

“That’s really attractive if you’re in the middle of nowhere, and we have a lot of middle of nowheres, like in Alaska and places in Canada,” she said.

More than 60 different nuclear

technologies are in development, with several to be constructed before 2030, she said.

In Wyoming, a next-generation reactor will be built on the site of a retired coal plant.

“We can repurpose the talent in these coal sites and gas plants, when those plants are ready to shut down,” Korsnick said. “In nuclear power, we just boil water a little bit differently — once we turn that water into steam, the rest of the plant looks very much like a coal or gas plant does today.”

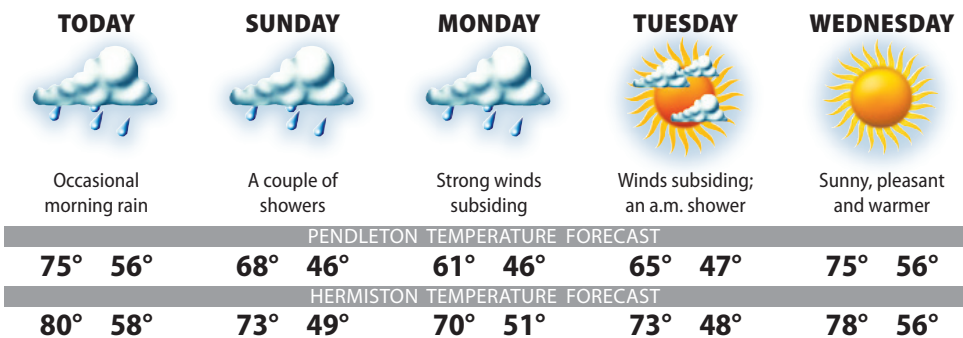
Some reactors will produce steam, which also can be used in the manufacturing sector, or to produce hydrogen, or have the option to switch between steam and hydrogen production.

Chief nuclear officers at member utilities told the institute they’ll need 90 gigawatts of new nuclear power, which would double the amount of energy available from nuclear today, Korsnick said. That will require 300 small modular reactors and make nuclear the largest source of power.

The Infrastructure Bill included investments of \$8.5 billion in nuclear power, Korsnick said. There also is wide support on the state level.

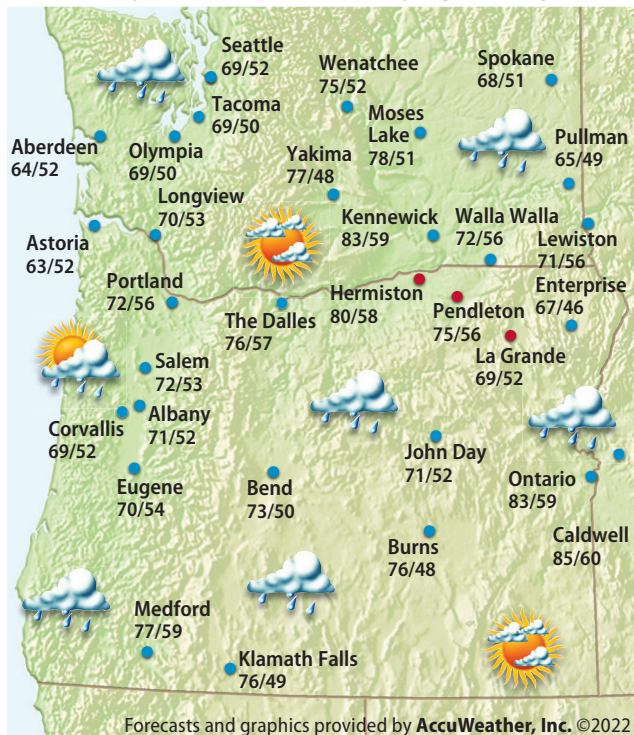
“If five years ago, I would have told you we had 10 bills going through state legislatures that had anything to do with nuclear, it would have been a big deal,” Korsnick said. “Today, there are more than 100 bills supporting nuclear working their way through state legislatures.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



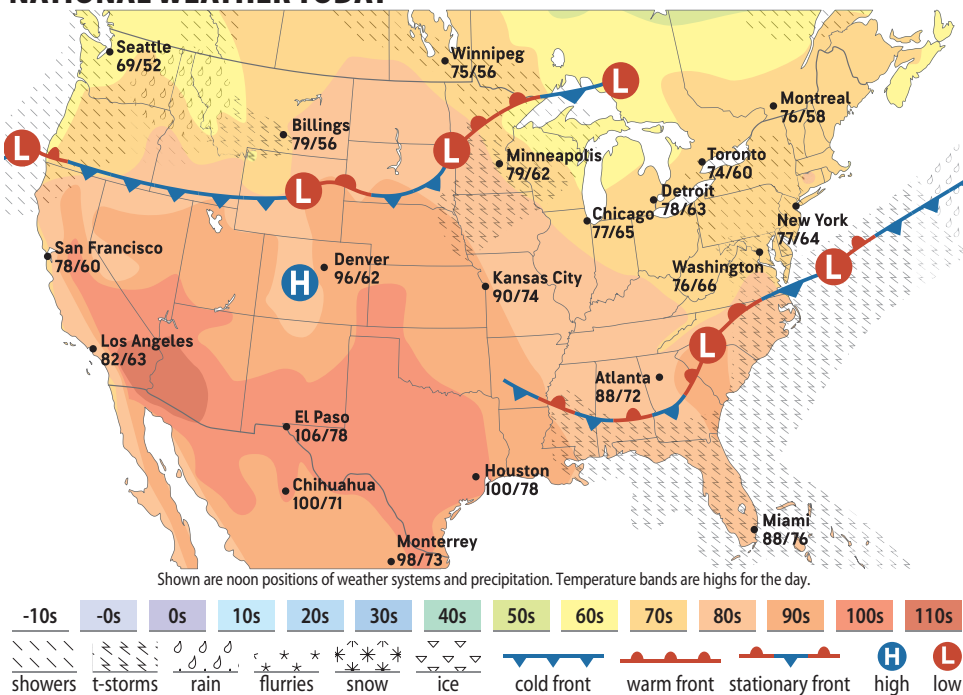
ALMANAC

Table with weather statistics for Pendleton and Hermiston, including temperature, precipitation, and moon phases.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 113° in Needles, Calif. Low 30° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Recount planned in Baker County Board of Commissioner race

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER COUNTY — The race for a position on the Baker County Board of Commissioners remains so close that County Clerk Stefanie Kirby is preparing to do a hand recount of more than 5,000 ballots.

But regardless of the outcome, the two candidates — Christina Witham and Kody Justus — will both advance to a runoff in the Nov. 8 general election.

They are vying for Position 2, one of two part-time spots on the three-member board of commissioners.

According to Oregon election law, if no candidate in a contested race gets more than 50% of the votes cast, then the top two advance to the general election. That standard also applies in races, like this one,

with just two candidates.

In preliminary results from the county clerk’s office on May 17, the day of the primary election, Justus had a three-vote lead, 2,485 votes to Witham’s 2,482.

The reason Justus doesn’t have at least 50% of the votes, even with his slim lead, is there were about 50 write-in votes, which constitutes about 1% of the total votes cast. That means Justus and Witham are dividing 99% of the votes, and with such a close race, neither has quite reached that 50% plus one threshold needed to avoid a runoff in November.

The preliminary totals in the commissioner race didn’t include ballots that were postmarked on May 17 but hadn’t arrived at the Clerk’s office that day.

Kirby said her office received 61 postmarked votes within seven calendar days

after the election, which made them eligible. This was the first Oregon election in which those postmarked ballots are counted if they’re received within seven days.

Kirby said there also were 15 other ballots counted. In some cases the voter had left the ballot in a drop box in a different county, which is allowed, and others either lacked a signature or the signature didn’t match the one the clerk’s office had on record for that voters.

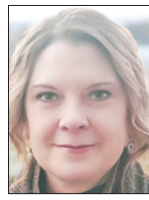
Those are known as “challenged” ballots, and voters had until June 7 to confirm that they filled out those ballots.

After tallying the 76 ballots, the Witham-Justus race was even closer, but Witham, who previously trailed by three votes, had a lead of two votes, 2,518 to Justus’ 2,516, Kirby said.

But as was the case on May 17, neither Witham nor Justus has more than 50% of the total votes cast, so both will advance to the Nov. 8 general election, Kirby said.



Justus



Witham

IN BRIEF

Body of missing Long Creek man found

LONG CREEK — Search crews found the body of a Long Creek man Wednesday, June 8, in a remote area east of Belshaw Meadows.

A June 9 press release from the Grant County Sheriff’s Office noted Marvin C. Crist, 74, was last seen on May 30 checking out of a motel in La Grande.

Ground search members located Crist’s body near his vehicle. It appeared Crist became stuck after he backed off the road on May 30 or 31, Sheriff Todd McKinley said.

McKinley said no foul play is suspected and Crist’s family had been notified.

McKinley thanked the volunteers and personnel that helped locate Crist. Their efforts, McKinley notes, helped bring resolution to Crist’s family.

—EO Media Group



Contributed Photo

Grant County Sheriff Todd McKinley said in a Thursday, June 9, 2022, press release that ground search crew members found the body of a Long Creek man on June 8 near this vehicle east of Belshaw Meadows.

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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