

EAST OREGONIAN

JULY 23 – 24, 2022

146th Year, No. 92

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Heat wave to hit Northeastern Oregon

Forecast shows high temps last next week at 105-plus, but lows only in the 70s

By **DICK MASON AND PHIL WRIGHT**
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — A heat wave hitting Northeastern Oregon during the next week could deliver high temperatures reminiscent of the heat bubble from June 2021.

Rob Brooks, a meteorologist

for the National Weather Service in Pendleton, said it will be bring in the hottest weather the region has experienced this year.

“It is going to be toasty. It is important that people start planning for how they are going to handle this heat,” Brooks said.

The National Weather Service is projecting highs in Pendleton to rise from 92 degrees on Saturday, July 23 to 98 on July 25. Then hit triple digits for several days, with 103 on July 26 and 105 on July 27 and 28.

Hermiston is tracking along the same path but looking a bit hotter,

with a high of 94 on July 23, 97 on July 24 and hitting 101 the next day. Highs from July 26-28 then could reach 105, 106 and 107 in that order.

Ann Adams, assistant forecaster with the NWS in Pendleton, said projections for Friday, July 29, show Pendleton reaching 107 and Hermiston peaking at 110.

“Kind of a flashback to last summer,” she said.

Even higher elevations are going to feel the burn. La Grande has an elevation of 2,785 feet, while Pendleton’s elevation is 1,200 feet, but the Weather Service forecast La Grande at 88 degrees July 23, then rising

daily and reaching 101 on July 28.

Brooks said the highs concern him but the projected lows worry him just as much and possibly more. The meteorologist said many of the low temperatures projected for Northeastern Oregon will be at or approaching 70 degrees.

“Recovery time will be down,” he said. “People will have less opportunity to cool off their core body temperature.”

The forecast shows an overnight low on July 25 in Pendleton of 61 and in Hermiston of 64, Adams said, and from there the lows get warmer for several days.

Pendleton’s low for July 26 is 64, then creeps up to 70 degrees as a low for July 28 and 29. And the lows in Hermiston rise to 73 on July 28 and 74 on July 29.

“There’s definitely a trend, unfortunately,” Adams said.

“People will need to find ways to cool off at night,” Brooks said.

Adams concurred, suggesting people might be able to open windows at night, but there does not look to be much breeze next week except for places close to the Columbia River.

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CRIME

Police nab remaining Island City burglary suspect

Demus Montez of Hermiston was last of three suspects police were looking for

By **DICK MASON, ISABELLA CROWLEY and SHANNON GOLDEN**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The arrest of a third suspect involved in an attempted burglary and police chase brings an end to a dramatic manhunt that tied up police resources from several agencies.

Demus Montez, 36, Hermiston, evaded officers following the events Sunday, July 17, that started in Island City. Police finally caught up with Montez during the early morning hours of July 19. Montez was identified by a motorist who reported seeing an individual wearing a black hooded sweatshirt crawl out of a field outside Elgin, according to Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen. Police scanner traffic indicated the caller reported the individual was walking down Highway 82 near the Elgin Stampede grounds.

Deputies arrived on scene, took Montez into custody and booked him into the Union County Jail. He was arrested on charges of attempted murder, first-degree attempted robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, criminal mischief, reckless endangering and misdemeanor fleeing.

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Veteran National Guard aviator and FAA inspector returns to Pendleton

By **JOHN TILLMAN**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Army aviator Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Long this month moved back to the town he loves from the Willamette Valley.

Long resided in Pendleton from 1995 to 2009, while serving with the “Dust Devils” Oregon Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter unit based at the airport.

“This is my final move, he said. “I am here to stay.”

The 36-year veteran is assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota

helicopter unit in Salem. Those years include his service as a U.S. Navy air traffic controller.

The Airbus Helicopters’ Lakota has two engines, with a single, four-bladed main rotor. Boeing Chinooks have two, tandem, counter-rotating, three-bladed rotors.

Long moved to the Portland area in 2009 to work as an aviation safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration field office. He has flown almost every rotary wing aircraft, but for the FAA specializes in night vision goggles, large helicopters and air ambulances.

Long recently returned from an FAA assignment in France with Airbus Helicopters. There he was one of the first Americans to fly the new H-160, a medium utility helicopter in the Airbus MH-65 Dolphin family. It’s a scaled up Dolphin, with a new five-bladed main rotor and an empty weight of 9,348 pounds, versus MH-65’s 5,267. The U.S. Coast Guard operates four-bladed Dolphins. A Lakota weighs only 7,904 pounds.

“It was the pinnacle of my flying career to be on the certification team for the FAA and to represent America,” Long said. “It was a great honor to be on the team that certifies a new prototype helicopter for import into the United States.”

Long was raised in a large Mexican-Amer-

ican Mormon family in Yamhill. While he joined the Navy, he didn’t see the world until his service in the Guard and FAA.

Long deployed to Afghanistan with the Dust Devils in 2005-06, brigaded with the Nevada Guard’s “Mustangs”. His barracks roommate and friend, Pendleton native Warrant Officer 1 Adrian Stump, 22, and Staff Sgt. Tane Baum, 30, formerly of Athena, were killed in action. Three other soldiers died with them on Sept. 25, 2005. There is a large Mustang 22 Memorial in Reno and a smaller one in Pendleton.

An assignment to train pilots in Bangladesh followed.

Every summer the Dust Devils fought wildfires across Oregon, dipping underslung giant, 20,000-pound when filled Bambi buckets into water sources. He often engaged in search and rescue missions. Boeing gave his flight crew an award for a daring, long-range rescue in the Sierra Nevada at 13,100 feet.

Long’s lengthy aviation career has prepared him well for his next assignment in October. Though eligible to retire, he has volunteered for yet another deployment — flying the Lakota on the southwest border.

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Top: Dave Long in the cockpit of his Rutan Long-EZ homebuilt light plane racing in Kanab, Utah in September 2021. Above: Dave Long poses with his Rutan Long-EZ in Utah in 2021. Dave Long/Contributed Photos



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