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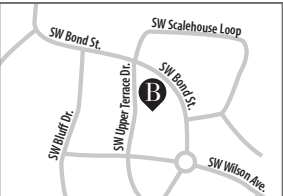
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Hottest August on record for Idaho, Oregon and Washington

BY DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Oregon, Idaho and Washington had their hottest Augusts in 128 years of record-keeping, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported Friday.

Heat records fell in all three states, topping old marks for the month by nearly a degree in Idaho and by more than a degree in Washington and Oregon.

Temperatures were far above normal.

Idaho's average temperature was 5.67 degrees Fahrenheit above the norm, while Washington's was 6.3 and Oregon's 6.6.

The three states also set records for average temperature over a two-month period, July and August. The Northwest has now had hotter-than-average summers for the past decade.

"The real story is that we have this big cluster of years with temperatures well above normal," Oregon State Climatologist Larry O'Neill said.

"This is the kind of summer we're expecting in the future. By 2050, this will be an average summer," he said.

California nearly set a heat record for August. Only August 2020 was hotter.

All four states, including California, set records for August nighttime temperatures.

Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond said green-



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file

Jeremy Prater douses his head July 26 at a cooling station on Hunnell Road in Bend, where temperatures hit 102 degrees, according to the National Weather Service. Oregon, Idaho and Washington recorded their hottest August temperatures in 128 years of record keeping.

house gases are holding in heat at night, keeping temperatures up.

"This is something we're seeing more and more of," he said. "It's completely consistent with the physics."

"It's like we have a thin film of clouds even when it's clear," Bond said. "In the morning, you're starting off at a higher (temperature) level."

Bond also noted there were few Pacific Ocean "weather disturbances" — the gentle summertime ver-

sions of storms — to usher in cool breezes and sprinkles of rain.

The hot summer came after an unusually wet and cold April, May and much of June.

Oregon's summer was the fourth-warmest on record, surpassed by three recent years, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

A warm north Pacific Ocean — reminiscent of "The Blob" that heated up the Northwest in 2013-15 — was another reason for the high temperatures, O'Neill said.

Warm and humid air flowed into Oregon and also trapped heat, he said. "That was definitely a factor."

Idaho had its sixth-warmest summer, and California had its third-warmest. Across the U.S., it was the eighth hottest August on record.

Rain varied more in the states. Washington had its 16th driest August, while Oregon had its 58th driest and Idaho its 69th driest. California had its 18th wettest August.

2 Nigerian men charged in attempted fraud

Alleged victims include Portland Public Schools, FBI says

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN
The Oregonian

Two Nigerian nationals are accused of attempting to steal about \$25 million from nearly two dozen hospitals, schools and universities around the United States, including about \$2.9 million from Oregon's Portland Public Schools district in 2019.

Efeturi Ariawhorai, also known as Efeturi Simeon, 35, and Ikenna Nwajaku, 41, each face an 11-count indictment,

charging them with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

The two remain fugitives. Ariawhorai was arrested in Italy in November but fled house arrest before he could be transferred to Oregon. He's believed to be living in the United Arab Emirates. Nwajaku is suspected of living in or near Lagos, Nigeria, according to federal investigators.

The attempted theft from Portland Public Schools occurred when a fraudster posing as one of the district's construction contractors tricked employees into green-lighting

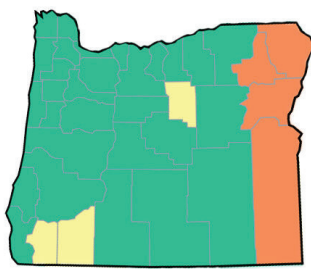
the \$2.9 million payment, district officials said at the time.

The scam was caught while the millions were still in the fraudster's bank account, and most of the money was returned to the district's Wells Fargo account within days, officials said.

The two defendants' alleged fraud occurred from August 2019 through December 2020 and targeted a total of about \$25.2 million from 20 different organizations, school districts or hospitals, the indictment said. The actual loss was \$6.2 million to 15 organizations, according to investigators.

Authorities urged victims of online or internet-enabled crimes to file reports online with IC3 at www.ic3.gov or call a local FBI field office.

LOCAL BRIEFING



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported COVID-19 community levels at low for Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties on Thursday. Statewide, four counties were at high, indicated by orange; three were at medium, or yellow; and 29 were at low, or green.

COVID-19 community levels for Central Oregon

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitors levels of COVID-19 to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data.

Levels can be low, medium or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. The agency listed the following levels for Central Oregon:

Deschutes County: Low
Crook County: Low
Jefferson County: Low

For communities at low levels, the CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines and getting tested if experiencing symptoms.

— Bulletin staff report

OREGON Power restored after fire, high winds

Associated Press

Utility companies said Monday they have restored power to tens of thousands of customers after shutting down service over the weekend to try to prevent wildfires during high winds, low humidity and hot temperatures.

Both Portland General Electric and Pacific Power enacted planned power shut-offs Friday as high, gusting winds and low humidity moved into Oregon, posing extreme fire danger.

The utilities were concerned that the winds would cause power lines to break or sag, making sparks that could ignite tinder-dry vegetation.

Portland General Electric halted power to about 37,000 customers in 17 service areas starting Friday, and Pacific Power shut down service to 12,000 customers.

Power shut-offs due to fire weather, common in California, are new to the Pacific Northwest.

The strategy appeared to be successful, with no major new blazes over the weekend.

Portland General Electric also fully restored power to all affected customers by Saturday evening, the company said.



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