



Portraits of 'Unsung Heroes' line skybridge at Legacy Salmon Creek offices

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Start planning your Fourth of July

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The Columbian

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Eyeing an EV? In WA, you'll save big

State 1 of 9 where low electricity prices make vehicles extra alluring

By KYLE STOCK
Bloomberg News

Nearly \$1,500 a year. That's roughly the fuel savings at the moment between a cur-

rent gas car and the typical electric vehicle charged at a U.S. home.

Across the country, that number is fully tilted in favor of driving electric, but it varies by state. In some places, both gas and electricity are pricey (see: California). But in a huge swath of the American West — nine U.S. states, including Arizona, Utah and

Washington — consumers pay more than average for gas and less than average for electricity, according to a Bloomberg analysis of fuel prices and household power rates.

These are the sweet spots for EV adoption — only made sweeter since the Iran war spiked prices at the pump. Though they have come down somewhat in recent weeks,

they remain well above pre-war levels.

"Given how high gas prices are, you're doing a lot of savings everywhere, but these places are pretty good," said Corey Cantor, research director at the Zero Emission Transportation Association, a nonprofit advocacy group. "It's definitely a huge selling point."

Consider Washington, which has the third-highest gas prices in the country and some of the cheapest electricity, thanks largely to hydroelectric power and public utilities. Assuming a typical American driving distance, swapping a gas car for an EV, in this case, would save

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In Washington, swapping a gas car for an EV would save

\$2,346

a year in fuel costs, assuming a typical American driving distance.

Washougal Lumber Co. 'A VERY SAD GOODBYE'



Photos by TAYLOR BALKOM/The Columbian

Fourth-generation Washougal Lumber Co. owner Brett Scott says he's ready to retire. The 117-year-old business is closing at the end of June. At top, an old newspaper ad touts the 75th anniversary of Washougal Lumber Co.

Family-owned company shuts its doors June 30 after serving customers since 1909

By DOUG FLANAGAN
The Columbian

WASHOUGAL — One of Washougal's oldest businesses is shutting down.

The Washougal Lumber Co., which has served customers since 1909, will close its doors for the final time on June 30.

"We are a historical landmark in Washougal, (right there) with the Pendleton Woolen Mill," co-owner Brett Scott said. "I'm very thankful for this great little town supporting generations of my family for years. It will be a very sad goodbye."

Scott said the business is still doing well financially, but his age and his wife's health issues influenced his decision to retire.

"It's just time," said Scott, 60. "I'm at the age where I'm seeing life a little differently now. My wife's a couple years older than me, she fights Lyme disease, she's got atrial fibrillation. Things kind of made me, about a year and a half or two years ago, realize that I'm getting up there and I don't know what's going to happen."

Ernest Dubois, a Vancouver sawmill owner and Scott's great-grandfather, started the business in 1909. He passed it on to his son-in-law, Lloyd Scott, who passed it on to his son, John Scott, in 1971. John Scott's sons, Brett and Kevin Scott, took over in 1992.

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Finished wood sits under a skylight June 11 at Washougal Lumber Co. in Washougal. The 117-year-old business is closing at the end of June.

What will El Niño mean for state?

Pacific warming cycle is expected to be 'very strong'

By AMANDA ZHOU
The Seattle Times

El Niño, a natural warming cycle in the Pacific Ocean, is here and expected to become one of the strongest in recent history.

Meteorologists fear this year's El Niño will further heat a planet already warmed by fossil fuel pollution and lead to billions of dollars in damages from heat waves, floods and droughts.

But what does it mean for the Pacific Northwest?

WHAT IS WITH THIS PREDICTED 'SUPER' EL NIÑO?

For the last few months, you might have seen in the news warnings of a so-called "super El Niño."

The characterization comes as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast predicted a 63 percent chance that the temperature in the tropical Pacific will rise over 2 degrees Celsius or a "very strong" El Niño in the November and January window. (NOAA also predicts a 33 percent chance of a "strong" El Niño and a 10 percent chance of a moderate El Niño in the same window.)

But a "super" El Niño isn't strictly scientific, said Karin Bumbaco, deputy state climatologist for the Washington State Climate Office.

"I just think (that term) can cause a little bit of unnecessary hype," she said.

The term likely rises out of the fact that the forecast certainty around El Niño came earlier this year and that this year's weather pattern is favored to be "very strong" between November and January, Bumbaco said.

Typically, weather models struggle to predict this time of year what the fall and winter months might look like

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Lake to Bay Relay continues to grow in popularity

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Former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan dies at 100

NATION, A9



Lynn Schmidt: D-Day leadership shows what America has lost

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