

WEATHER

Pattern continues along coast

Thunderstorms possible in interior mountain areas

By Ray Aspuria

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EUREKA » If rain does fall this week in the Eureka area, it will be sporadic at best, according to the National Weather Service.

“Right here in Eureka, other than perhaps temperatures dropping a few degrees, there’s not a whole lot going on,” said NWS meteorologist Brad Scharboneau. “We’ve got an upper-level low-pressure system moving toward the coast right now. And what we’ll see, probably in Northern California in general, is an increase of

shower activity, especially across the interior. Farther east in the mountains — those areas.”

Eureka may see some isolated showers, but nothing too significant, according to forecasters.

Most likely, the Humboldt Bay area will see a weather pattern similar to what the region has experienced over the last two weeks.

Expect mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies this week with temperatures slated to hover in the high 50s to low 60s. Night temps are expected to be in the high 40s.

The National Weather Service issued a hazardous weather outlook ad-

visory Monday for a chance of thunderstorms over the interior northwest California mountains in the upper Trinity River area and Mendocino County each afternoon and evening through this coming weekend, with the best chances occurring Wednesday and Thursday.

Just like the previous week, wind is in the forecast in the next coming days.

Another low-pressure system is on the horizon. However, exactly what that will bring is still up in the air.

“The models have had times forecasting these systems that far out,” Scharboneau said. “We’re in a wait-and-see mode.”

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Outlook

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The first meeting will be at the Orleans Ranger Station, from 2 to 5 p.m. May 18, followed by another session on May 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Crescent City Fire Protection District Office, 255 West Washington Blvd. Eureka’s session is set for 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. May 28 at the Six Rivers National Forest Headquarters, 1330 Bayshore Way.

The presentations will include the outlook for the 2015 fire season and an interactive discussion about protecting personal property, homes, cabins, natural resources and more

from wildland fires. In 2014, under a “Service First” agreement, the Six Rivers National Forest and Redwood National Park fire management programs were combined into an interagency organization.

“The organization provides wildland fire protection to more than 1.3 million acres of public and private lands in Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou and Trinity counties,” according to the Six Rivers National Forest. “In 2014, the interagency fire management staff kept the acres burned to less than 1,200 acres on 52 wildfires.”

For more information, contact James Courtright at 441-3575 or jamescourtright@fs.fed.us.

NORTH COAST

Meetings set for fire season outlook

The Times-Standard

Six Rivers National Forest and Redwood National Park are hosting a series of public meetings in Eureka, Orleans and Crescent City to discuss what the 2015 fire season may bring.

“These meetings are part of our ongoing commitment to working with and informing our communities about the risks and decision-making process related to wildland fire management on the Six Rivers, as well as at Redwood National Park,” according to Merv George Jr., the Six Rivers National Forest supervisor.

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Raises

FROM PAGE 1

SACRAMENTO

Lawmakers, Governor get 3 percent raise

By Josh Richman
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SACRAMENTO » In a move to restore deep cuts to pay and perks during the Great Recession, California lawmakers and statewide elected officers will get 3 percent raises at the end of this year, a panel appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown decided Monday.

The decision comes a few days before Brown is scheduled to roll out his revised budget proposal, and as the state enjoys higher-than-estimated tax revenues.

The Citizens Compensation Commission voted 4-0 for the pay increases, as well as restore 10 percent cuts in health, dental and vision benefits imposed during the recession. The new salaries still don't approach the all-time, pre-recession highs, but critics were quick to question whether legislators deserved the pay hike.

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PAY RAISES

California lawmakers and statewide elected officials will receive 3 percent pay increases starting in December 2015. Here are the current base salaries and the projected salaries after the raises approved by the California Citizens Compensation Commission:

Position	Current Salary	New Salary
Governor	\$177,467	\$182,791
Lieutenant Governor	\$133,100	\$137,093
Attorney General	\$154,150	\$158,775
Secretary of State	\$133,100	\$137,093
Controller	\$141,973	\$146,232
Treasurer	\$141,973	\$146,232
Super. of Public Instruction	\$154,150	\$158,775
Insurance Commissioner	\$141,973	\$146,232
Board of Equalization	\$133,100	\$137,093
Speaker of the Assembly	\$111,776	\$115,129
Pres. Pro Tem of the Senate	\$111,776	\$115,129
Minority Leader	\$111,776	\$115,129
Majority Floor Leader	\$104,486	\$107,621
2nd Ranking Minority Leader	\$104,486	\$107,621
All Other Legislators	\$97,197	\$100,113

Source: Citizens Compensation Commission

while lawmakers earned \$116,208.

Dalzell said the 3 percent raise "was in the middle of what people were comfortable with" on the commission, some believing it should be more and some less. "It was a fairly quick consensus to come up with," he said.

Not everyone finds legislators so deserving.

"The pay increase for the governor, as CEO of a very very large enterprise, doesn't particularly bother us, but the legislative salaries are a different story," said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

The commission seemed to believe that a rebounding economy makes this the right time to restore salaries, Coupal said, but "it's lost on most people that it's not our political elite who are responsible for the dollars coming into the treasury, it's the taxpayers."

billion past expectations, Controller Betty Yee reported Monday, with two months left in the fiscal year, the total general fund receipts of \$92 billion are beating estimates by about \$3.4 billion.

That's 3.8 percent higher than Brown expected in the proposed budget he offered in January, and 7.2 percent higher than anticipated when Brown signed the current budget last June.

The California Citizens Compensation Commission was created through voters' passage of Proposition 112 in June 1990; before that, the Legislature set salaries for itself and statewide officials. The governor appoints the seven-member board — two from labor; one from small business; one from a nonprofit public interest group; a compensation expert; a major corporation executive; and one representing the general population. The commission can raise salaries only when there's no budget deficit.

Brown named a new commission member just last week: Martina Kolkotronis, 50, a Democrat from Sacramento, has been the Sacramento Kings' president of business operations since 2010 and director of the Sacramento Kings Foundation since 2004.

Assembly members and state senators — who already were the nation's highest-paid state lawmakers — will earn \$100,113 per year, up from \$97,197, though a few in leadership positions earn more; lawmakers also earn a \$142 tax-free "per diem" payment for each day that they're in Sacramento on legislative business. Brown's salary will rise from \$177,467 to \$182,791 per year.

"It's all an exercise in perception and fairness, rather than actual impact on the budget," commission chairman Thomas Dalzell said later Monday.

The panel's decision doesn't change the amount of money allocated to the Legislature, he said; it merely lets lawmakers themselves draw a larger share of what's already budgeted to their branch. And the statewide officials' raises are a drop in the state's \$108 billion budget.

The commission also restored what had been a 10 percent cut in health, dental and vision benefits for these officials. "Nobody could articulate a reason to treat them different from managerial state employees, so we restored that," Dalzell said.

This is the third consecutive year of pay raises for state lawmakers and officials: last year's increase, effective in December, was 2 percent. But earlier, the commission had cut lawmakers' pay by 18 percent and eliminated their state-owned vehicles during the recession.

Back in 2008, at their highest points, the governor's salary was \$212,179