

= Burns , Oregon =

Burns is a city in and the county seat of Harney County , in the U.S. state of Oregon . According to the 2010 census , the population was 2 @, @ 806 . Burns and the nearby city of Hines are home to about 60 percent of the people in the sparsely populated county , the largest in Oregon and the ninth largest in the United States .

The Burns ? Hines region has a high @-@ desert climate but was much wetter in the recent geologic past . The Harney Basin was the largest of many depressions in which lakes formed in southeastern Oregon during the late Pleistocene . Remnants of an ancient lake that reached as far north as Burns are at the center of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge , south of the city .

Northern Paiutes or their ancestors , who were hunter @-@ gatherers , have lived in the region for thousands of years . Since the arrival of Euro @-@ Americans in the 19th century , cattle ranching and other forms of agriculture have dominated land use in the area . In 1930 , logging in the mountains north of Burns led to the creation of Hines , a lumber company town , and the timber industry remained important to the local economy until the 1990s . In addition to ranching , a variety of private and public enterprises support the Burns ? Hines economy in the 21st century . Annual events include a migratory bird festival , the county fair , and a country music jamboree .

= = History = =

= = = Tribal = = =

Archeologists have found evidence of human habitation in the general vicinity of Burns from as early as 10 @, @ 000 years ago . Members of the contemporary Burns Paiute Tribe of Harney County , descended mainly from the Wadatika band of Paiutes , were hunter @-@ gatherers throughout central and southern Oregon . The Wadatikas were named after the wada seeds collected as food from near Malheur Lake . Their territory covered about 5 @, @ 300 square miles (14 @, @ 000 km²) from the Cascade Range to near Boise and from the southern Blue Mountains to south of Steens Mountain . Scattered in the 19th century by clashes with white settlers and soldiers and through forced removal to distant reservations , some of the Paiutes eventually returned to Harney County .

In the 1930s , the Burns Paiute Tribe began buying land near Burns and holding tribal elections . By the late 1960s , the tribe had adopted a constitution and tribal bylaws , and in 1972 the Burns Paiute formally became an independent tribe , eligible to enter into contracts with other governments and legal entities . The tribe owns the Burns Paiute Reservation , 770 acres (310 ha) north of Burns , and individual members of the tribe own more than 11 @, @ 000 acres (4 @, @ 500 ha) of land elsewhere in the county . In 1991 , the tribe had about 350 members , and about 200 lived on the reservation .

= = = Cities and ranches = = =

After the arrival of Euro @-@ American settlers in the 19th century , Burns was established in the 1880s . It was formally incorporated after Harney County 's creation in 1889 through the splitting of Grant County into two counties . Early settler , merchant , and county commissioner George McGowan named the city after the Scottish poet Robert Burns . By 1891 , the community had stores , a post office , hotels , and other businesses . McGowan was the town 's first postmaster .

In the 1920s , timber cutting and milling brought many newcomers to the region . In 1928 , the Edward Hines Lumber Company acquired from the U.S. Forest Service the rights to cut timber in the Blue Mountains near Seneca , north of Burns . After winning the timber contract , the Hines Company built the 52 @-@ mile (84 km) Oregon and Northwestern Railroad between Burns and Seneca . Edward Hines , the company owner , built a lumber mill and company town , incorporated as the City of Hines in 1930 . Timber and logging remained important to the local economy until the

1990s , when the area 's last lumber mill closed for lack of timber .

Cattle ranching in the region began as early as the 1860s and expanded after passage of the Desert Land Act of 1877 . The act promoted development of arid and semi @-@ arid public land in the western United States by making 320 @-@ acre (130 ha) plots available to individuals willing to " reclaim , irrigate , and cultivate " the land . Some of the Harney County ranches established in the 19th century still exist in the 21st . Agricultural revenue for Harney County in 2011 totaled about \$ 84 million . Of this , about 65 percent came from cattle sales , 29 percent from the sale of alfalfa hay , and most of the rest from other crops and the sale of horses .

= = Geography = =

Harney County is the largest county in Oregon and the ninth largest in the United States . It covers about 10 @, @ 000 square miles (26 @, @ 000 km²) but has a total population of only about 7 @, @ 600 . Most of that population lives in Burns or Hines , about 2 miles (3 km) southwest of Burns . Burns had about 2 @, @ 800 residents in 2010 and Hines about 1 @, @ 600 , for a total of 4 @, @ 400 , nearly 60 percent of the county population .

The city is 132 miles (212 km) east of Bend , and 132 miles (212 km) west of Ontario , Oregon , on U.S. Route 20 at its intersection with U.S. Route 395 . Burns is about 200 miles (322 km) south of Pendleton . Oregon Route 78 runs between Burns and communities to the southeast including Crane , Princeton , and Burns Junction , about 100 miles (161 km) away . A fourth highway , Oregon Route 205 , links the city to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge , 36 miles (58 km) to the south , and to Frenchglen , further south near Steens Mountain .

According to the United States Census Bureau , the city has a total area of 3 @. @ 55 square miles (9 @. @ 19 km²) , all land .

= = = Geology = = =

Burns is in southeastern Oregon near the northern edge of the arid Harney Basin . The basin is part of the High Lava Plains , a region dominated by erupting volcanoes in the late Miocene , five to ten million years ago . Centered on the Brothers Fault Zone , which runs southeast ? northwest between Steens Mountain and Bend , the High Lava Plains merge with the Blue Mountains to the north and the Basin and Range Province to the south .

Shallow basins formed by crustal stretching in the Basin and Range province were much wetter during the late Pleistocene , up to 11 @, @ 000 years ago , than they are in the 21st century . Lakes formed in these basins , including those in the southern part of the High Lava Plains . Among these , the largest depression was the Harney Basin , covering 5 @, @ 300 square miles (14 @, @ 000 km²) . Within the Harney Basin , ancient Malheur Lake ? the 21st @-@ century remnants of which include Malheur Lake , Harney Lake , and Mud Lake ? covered 900 square miles (2 @, @ 300 km²) and extended as far north as Burns . These remnant wetlands have become the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge .

= = = Climate = = =

Burns has a semi @-@ arid continental climate (Köppen BSk) bordering upon a continental Mediterranean climate (Dsb) that averages 99 days with precipitation each year . Cloud cover varies from an average of 25 percent in July to 76 percent in January . Normal annual precipitation amounts to about 11 inches or 279 millimetres , including 34 inches or 86 centimetres of snow . The average relative humidity , measured at 4 p.m. daily , is 42 percent , varying from 21 percent in July to 68 percent in December and January . The normal monthly daily average temperature ranges from about 24 ° F (? 4 ° C) in December to 67 ° F (19 ° C) in July . On average , highs reach 90 ° F (32 ° C) on 24 days annually and stay at or below the freezing mark on 31 days , while lows fall to or below 0 ° F (? 18 ° C) on an average of 11 nights . The average first and last occurrences of freezing temperatures are September 2 and June 21 , respectively , allowing a growing season of

72 days .

In January 1950 , during a series of snowstorms the National Weather Service has identified as one of Oregon 's top 10 weather events of the 20th century , about 32 inches (81 cm) of snow fell on Burns . During another top @-@ 10 event , which occurred in February 1933 , the temperature at Seneca reached ? 54 ° F (? 48 ° C) , the lowest ever recorded in Oregon . By highway , Seneca is about 45 miles (72 km) north of Burns in the Blue Mountains . At Burns itself , record temperatures range from ? 30 ° F (? 34 ° C) on December 8 , 2013 , up to 107 ° F (42 ° C) on July 12 , 2002 ; the record low maximum is ? 3 ° F (? 19 ° C) on January 6 , 1982 , and December 21 , 1990 , while the record high minimum is 73 ° F (23 ° C) on July 27 and 30 , 1939 .

= = Demographics = =

As of the census of 2010 , there were 2 @, @ 806 people , 1 @, @ 280 households , and 720 families residing in the city . The population density was 790 @. @ 4 inhabitants per square mile (305 @. @ 2 / km²) . There were 1 @, @ 490 housing units at an average density of 419 @. @ 7 per square mile (162 @. @ 0 / km²) . The racial makeup of the city was 92 @. @ 2 % White , 0 @. @ 3 % African American , 2 @. @ 6 % Native American , 0 @. @ 7 % Asian , 0 @. @ 7 % from other races , and 3 @. @ 3 % from two or more races . Hispanic or Latino of any race were 4 @. @ 7 % of the population .

There were 1 @, @ 280 households out of which 24 @. @ 4 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 40 @. @ 6 % were married couples living together , 11 @. @ 5 % had a female householder with no husband present , 4 @. @ 1 % had a male householder with no wife present , and 43 @. @ 8 % were non @-@ families . 36 @. @ 9 % of all households were made up of individuals and 13 @. @ 9 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 2 @. @ 13 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 77 .

The median age in the city was 44 @. @ 5 years . 21 @. @ 5 % of residents were under the age of 18 ; 8 @. @ 7 % were between the ages of 18 and 24 ; 20 @. @ 3 % were from 25 to 44 ; 30 @. @ 7 % were from 45 to 64 ; and 18 @. @ 9 % were 65 years of age or older . The gender makeup of the city was 51 @. @ 2 % male and 48 @. @ 8 % female .

The median income for a household in the city was \$ 32 @, @ 877 , and the median income for a family was \$ 42 @, @ 885 . The per capita income for the city was \$ 19 @, @ 567 . About 19 @. @ 6 % of families and 20 % of the population had incomes below the poverty line .

= = Arts and culture = =

The Harney County Arts in Education Foundation (HCAEF) exists to support music education and the performing , visual , and theater arts in Burns and the region . The HCAEF is raising funds in hopes of creating a performing arts and education center with a 600 @-@ seat auditorium , art gallery , film studio , and other facilities for students and the community . The Portland Youth Philharmonic , which originated in Burns as the Sagebrush Symphony Orchestra , has performed in Burns in support of the HCAEF .

Each April , Burns hosts the John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival and Art Show during the annual spring migration of waterfowl and other birds through the area . Pelicans , ducks , and raptors are among the birds frequenting the Harney Basin wetlands , a stopping place on the Pacific Flyway . Named for a former manager of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge , the festival includes tours of the wetlands and nearby ranches as well as classes in topics such as birdhouse building , Harney County archeology , and bird sketching .

In June , the High Desert Fiddlers host the Country Music Jamboree at the Harney County Fairgrounds on the edge of Burns . Players of all skill levels take part in the jamboree , with stages in three fairground buildings . Admission is free ; donations are accepted . Concessions , dinners by reservation , camping in tents or recreational vehicles , and dancing are part of the entertainment . At other times of the year , the High Desert Fiddlers gather on Fridays at various locations around the city to hold public jam sessions including folk , country , bluegrass , and other music played on

instruments such as the guitar , mandolin , fiddle , and hammered dulcimer .

The Harney County Fair is held annually in September at the Harney County Fairgrounds . The fair , which lasts about a week , includes a rodeo , carnival , talent show , horse races , parade , and other events , including those sponsored by 4 @-@ H and Future Farmers of America .

The Harney County Historical Museum in Burns offers displays of relics , documents , and photographs from the region 's past . Established in 1960 at the site of a former brewery , laundry , and wrecking yard , the museum is open five days a week (Tuesday through Saturday) from April through September and at other times by appointment .

= = Government = =

Burns has a mayor ? council government . Craig LaFollette , one of seven elected members of the council , is the mayor . The city 's public works department , consisting of a director and four full @-@ time workers , maintains the water lines , sewers , and streets of Burns . The police department includes a chief of police , an office assistant , and three full @-@ time officers who work for Hines as well as Burns . City officers and employees include a city manager , city clerk , municipal judge doubling as the utilities clerk , and an office assistant .

A tribal council governs the Burns Paiute Tribe , immediately northwest of Burns . The tribe has its own police , court , and health and other services , including a tribal community center .

The Harney County Courthouse is in Burns . County officials include a judge and two commissioners , a clerk , treasurer , assessor , district attorney , justice of the peace , sheriff , and circuit court judge .

Harney County voters in 2012 voted heavily Republican . In the general election in November , Republican Mitt Romney won about 73 percent of the votes for U.S. President to about 23 percent for Democrat Barack Obama , while other candidates and parties shared the remaining 4 percent . In the contest for the U.S. Congressional 2nd District Representative , Republican Greg Walden garnered about 83 percent of the vote . In races for state offices , Republican candidates won between 63 and 69 percent of the vote in Harney County .

= = Education = =

Harney District No. 3 provides public education in Burns and Hines at Henry L. Slater Grade School in Burns , Hines Middle School , and Burns High School . The district sponsors the Silvies River Charter School , which offers a home @-@ school program for kindergarten through second grade and an online curriculum for older students .

Formed in 1903 by the Ladies Afternoon Club , the Harney County Library in Burns has grown from an initial collection of 12 books to more than 30 @,@ 000 items in 2013 . Library offerings include public computers , wireless Internet , video conferencing equipment , meeting spaces , and public programs , as well as books , magazines , newspapers , audio books , videos , DVDs , and access to Interlibrary Loan .

= = Media = =

The weekly Burns Times @-@ Herald is the only newspaper in the city . In 2006 , five members of the Times @-@ Herald staff formed Survival Media LLC , which bought the newspaper from its former out @-@ of @-@ state owners . According to Survival Media , this was the first staff buyout of a newspaper in Oregon . Two commercial radio stations , KORC (92 @.@ 7 FM) and KBNH (1230 AM) , are licensed to broadcast from Burns .

= = Infrastructure = =

= = = Transportation = = =

Burns Municipal Airport provides general aviation services . The airport , with 5 @, @ 100 feet (1 @, @ 600 m) of lighted runway , is 6 miles (10 km) east of the city . Pony Express provides air freight service .

Public Oregon Intercity Transit (POINT) is an intercity bus system that includes service between Bend and Ontario , Oregon . It departs from Burns once daily in each direction . The buses are wheelchair accessible , can seat up to 20 passengers , and can be used for package delivery as well as public transport .

= = = Health care = = =

Harney District Hospital in Burns is a general medical and surgical hospital with 20 patient beds . HDH Family Care and Mountain Sage Medical operate medical clinics in the city . The Burns ? Hines VA Clinic in Burns provides general medical services to military veterans . Emergency medical services include AirLink Critical Care Transport via helicopter or airplane to the nearest appropriate treatment center .

= = Notable people = =

Kellen Clemens ? NFL quarterback

Norma Paulus ? former Oregon politician

Robert Smith ? Congressman / Speaker of the Oregon House

Gene Timms - former Oregon politician and businessman