

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
High: 49 Low: 28 Precip: 20%	High: 50 Low: 32 Precip: 0%	High: 52 Low: 36 Precip: 30%

**IN BRIEF**

**City Council to consider new scooter pathway laws**

The Eugene City Council will consider an ordinance tonight restricting the use of motor-assisted scooters on park paths and requiring stores to post laws concerning the vehicles.

A motor-assisted scooter is a vehicle operated with three wheels or less that has handlebars, a seat or foot support and a power source incapable of propelling the vehicle at speeds of more than 24 m.p.h. on level ground, according to the ordinance.

Complaints from pedestrians and bicyclists about the noise level and use of motor-assisted scooters on bike paths prompted the city to look at its laws, said Eugene police Sgt. Derel Schulz.

"When these things first started off, they were pretty (non-invasive)," said Schulz, who supervises the department's traffic enforcement unit. "Now you have these things that can look almost like motorcycles."

The law would prohibit motor-assisted scooters from all off-road paths and would require scooter retailers to post the laws governing motor-assisted scooters "in a prominent place," according to the ordinance.

Existing city laws require motorized vehicles be kept off park bike paths, but don't account for some sections of pathways, including the path between Alton Baker Park and Valley River Center, Schulz said.

Existing state laws also require users of motor-assisted vehicles to

wear helmets, to not ride on sidewalks, not go faster than 15 m.p.h. and not travel on roads with speed limits of more than 25 m.p.h. unless they have bike lanes, Schulz said.

Citations for breaking motor-assisted scooter laws are generally \$94, with a few fines of \$25 and about \$80, Schulz said.

He said the ordinance would fill in gaps in state and city laws. He didn't believe it would affect many people in the Eugene area.

"Some people who use these devices as a means of commuting are now going to be more limited in terms of where they operate them," Schulz said.

The council will discuss the ordinance at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Eugene City Council Chamber at 777 Pearl St.

— Kara Hansen

**Police: Oregon man used Internet to solicit suicide**

PORTLAND — A man who used an Internet chat room to try to set up a mass suicide on Valentine's Day had been trying to persuade women for at least five years to engage in sex acts with him and then kill themselves, a sheriff said Sunday.

Gerald Krein faces charges of solicitation to commit murder, but prosecutors are expected to increase the charge to attempted manslaughter Monday, said Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger.

Combing through old chat-room records, investigators discovered that Krein had been enticing women across North America to commit suicide as far back as 2000, Evinger said. Krein told investigators he elicited more than two dozen suicide pledges for the Valentine's Day plot, authorities said.

"The common theme is that these were women who were vulnerable, who were depressed. He invited them to engage in certain sexual acts with him — and then they were to hang themselves naked from a beam in his house," Evinger said. "He was

indicating in these chat groups to these women that he had a beam and that it would hold multiple people."

No deaths had been found that were linked to Krein, Evinger said, but he said he would not be surprised if someone had killed herself as a result of Krein's alleged activities.

**Shiites and Kurds big winners in Iraq's election**

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Clergy-backed Shiites and independence-minded Kurds swept to victory in Iraq's landmark elections, forcing Sunni Arabs to the margins for the first time in modern history, according to final results released Sunday.

But the Shiites' 48 percent of the vote is far short of the two-thirds majority needed to control the 275-member National Assembly. The results threw immediate focus on Iraqi leaders' backdoor deal-making to create a new coalition government — possibly in an alliance with the Kurds — and on efforts to lure Sunnis into the fold and away from a bloody insurgency.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, the secular Shiite chosen by the United States to lead this country for the last eight turbulent months, fared poorly — his ticket finished a distant third behind the religious Shiites and Kurds.

**Blair appeals to voters for third term in office**

GATESHEAD, England — Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose popularity crashed in the wake of the Iraq war, sought Sunday to reconnect with the British public and appealed to voters for a third term in office.

In a soul-searching speech to Labour Party loyalists, Blair acknowledged that the war had strained his relationship with the party and the country.

"And now you, the British people, have to sit down and decide whether you want this relationship to continue," Blair said.

— The Associated Press

- Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder -  
**"Whatever Happened to Diversity?"**

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- A one-hour rental for two at Onsen Hot Tubs & Spas
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Winner announced on Monday, February 14 at 5 p.m.

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Fred was near panic. Every year it was like this on Valentine's Day. He knew his future depended on making the right choice of a Valentine's gift for Jessie, his long-suffering wife, but it was always a challenge. Clothes never worked. Either you buy them too small and they don't fit, or too large, and you get that dirty look, you know the one.

Jewelry hadn't worked, either. Jess told him that the earrings he got looked like exercise equipment.

Oddly enough, it was a fortune cookie that saved his day. His had said "The path to true fulfillment will lead you to euphoria." "That's it," he cried, and out the door he ran.

The people at Euphoria were great. They steered him to a beautiful heart-shaped box, filled with Euphoria's Oregon Wine Truffles. He also picked up a few loose hearts for sprinkling around the house, as a little hint of what was to come. His day (and tail) saved, Fed moved on the planning the perfect place to dine for maximum effect, with minimum sweat. He vowed never to shop anywhere else.

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