

High: 51 Low: 39 Precip: 90%

High: 55 Low: 41 Precip: 30% High: 66 Low: 45 Precip: 30%

IN BRIEF

Oregon alcohol vendors confiscate more fake IDs

SALEM — Oregon businesses licensed to sell alcohol are getting better at spotting fraud.

More than 1,800 false IDs were confiscated by liquor licensees last year, an increase from 1,200 in 2003, Oregon Liquor Control Commission officials said.

Regulatory Field Director Linda Ignowski said the agency has made stopping the proliferation of fake IDs a higher priority than it did in the past.

"We are assisting licensees and their security staff to identify false IDs more readily and they're becoming more aware of the problem," she said.

Woman survives car crash over Portland bridge

PORTLAND — A woman whose SUV crashed through the guard rail of a downtown bridge, plunged 60 feet into the Willamette River and then sank another 55 feet to the river's bottom said she is amazed to have survived.

"You're in a car going off a bridge — you think you're done," Melissa Borgaard told The Oregonian.

Her harrowing experience occurred Saturday as she was driving across the Morrison Bridge, one of several bridges spanning the Willamette River in downtown Portland.

Borgaard was speaking on her hands-free cell phone with her sister making dinner plans when she lost control of her vehicle on the rainslick bridge.

The vehicle smashed through the guardrail, plunged off the span and to the bottom of the river.

"I struggled a little bit with my seatbelt and I thought "This can't be it," said Borgaard, of Vancouver, Wash. "I thought, 'OK, where am I at? I need to figure out where my seatbelt is."

She was able to unbuckle her seatbelt, and apparently got out of the car through a smashed windshield — although she doesn't remember everything that happened.

Before she knew it, she was kicking her way to the surface, gasping for air.

Several people with cell phones had called 9-1-1 after seeing the SUV

plunge off the bridge.

Floating on her back, she could hear the cheers of a crowd that had gathered on the river bank.

She could also hear sirens. "Please let them be coming for me," Borgaard, 31, recalls telling herself.

She was plucked out of the river by a dive team rescue swimmer from the Portland Fire Bureau.

Oregonians unwilling to abandon landline phones

According to a statewide survey of 2,406 households conducted on behalf of the Oregon Public Utility Commission, Oregonians are not willing to go completely wireless. Regular landline telephone service still has a strong following.

Although 67 percent of Oregon households reported having at least one cell phone, about 79 percent of respondents said they were unlikely to switch exclusively to cellular in the next six months.

Youth baseball league's equipment target of thieves

PORTLAND — Thieves targeted a youth baseball league over the weekend, stealing field maintenance equipment which had been gathered piecemeal by parents.

Dean Jennings, a volunteer for the Southeast Portland Babe Ruth Baseball League, said it took years for parents to gather the few pieces of power equipment used to maintain the fields.

Among the equipment stolen from the league's shed were a lawn mower, an edger and a pitching machine.

Parents have been doing the upkeep on the ballfield because the Portland Parks Bureau was forced to trim its maintenance budget.

"We're going to have fathers bringing their little power mowers to do the work," said Jennings. "There will be no way to drag the field."

Portland General Electric suitor stays a 'dark horse'

PORTLAND — Of the potential suitors for Enron-subsidiary Portland General Electric, a group dubbed the Oregon Mutual Development Co. has so far received little notice.

But the group — made-up of former PacifiCorp employees as well as experts in finance and utility law — has quietly moved into a position that could make it a contender for possession of Oregon's largest utility.

Two public purchase efforts by the state and by the City of Portland have made headlines for weeks, especially after the Oregon Public Utility Commission nixed Texas Pacific Group's \$2.35 billion bid for PGE earlier this month.

Last week, Oregon Mutual secured the services of New Harbor, an investment bank that specializes in utilities. Meanwhile, the state Legislature began considering a bill that would allow the group to buy PGE through the issuance of "securitized bonds," a financing structure which became popular in California during the electricity deregulation.

But in spite of all its progress, Oregon Mutual remains a dark horse. The other two public purchase offers have had a long head start. And some are concerned about Oregon Mutual's links to cross-town utility PacifiCorp.

The backers of the plan stress they will hold no stock or equity position in the venture.

Small town of La Pine installs first traffic light

LA PINE — A bit of the big city is coming to La Pine. The town south of Bend is getting its first traffic light, according to Deschutes County officials. But because of a land survey discrepancy, the light won't be installed at the intersection of Huntington Road and First Street until next year.

"I think the light is going to have a real impact ... especially on people's perceptions of La Pine," said Gary Judd, traffic engineer for Deschutes County. "La Pine is a very fast-growing area, and some people just don't understand that it's becoming a little city."

La Pine is a rural town of about 5,800 residents just under 30 miles south of Bend.

Four-way stop signs will be installed at the intersection this summer to address traffic problems until the stoplight is installed.

Patti Oatman, a receptionist at the La Pine Community Clinic — on the northeast corner of the intersection — said something needed to be done.

"It's the worst spot ever," she said.

The county plans to widen both
Huntington Road and First Street to allow for left-turn lanes. But first, land
survey discrepancies that were discov-

ered in the 1970s must be resolved.

Sometime in the 1950s, the survey corner first placed in La Pine in the early 1900s was moved 13 feet away. When the error was realized, the county did not require landowners to relocate their developments.

Today, the two landowners affected by the discrepancy — owners of the community clinic and an ACE Hardware store — are cooperating with Deschutes County and expect a resolution soon.

The traffic light will cost \$300,000. Bi-Mart will pick up part of the tab, and Deschutes County will pay for the rest

"I think most of us around here could see it coming," said John Pinckney, co-owner of the hardware store. "It was inevitable."

— The Associated Press

ESPN Plus

2005 Summer Internship

ESPN Plus at the University of Oregon Athletic
Department is looking for a full time summer
intern. The internship will focus on sports
sponsorship with an emphasis on web and graphic
design. This internship is a paid position and has
an anticipated start date of May 10th.

Applicants must have knowledge and experience with web and graphic design.

Please e-mail resumes and any questions to Courtney Oversby with ESPN Plus at courtney.j.oversby@espn.com

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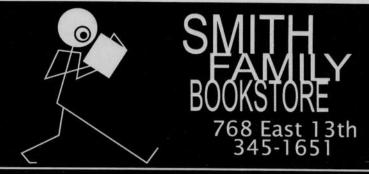
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College writes cell phone policy to prevent cheating

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY — One of Oregon's community colleges will soon begin regulating the use of cellular phones on campus.

Linn-Benton Community College has been taking both staff and student input on its proposed police for on-campus cell phone use.

But a rough guide has already been hammered out and Dean of Health and Human Services Jim Bell said he does not foresee any radical changes.

Bell said the policy was inspired by concerns that cellular phones, particularly those with text-messaging capabilities, might be used for cheating

Cell phones with imbedded cam-

eras could also be misused to invade student privacy in locker room or restroom settings.

Already, a number of professors have informally banned cell phones from their classrooms because the sounds can be a nuisance.

The draft guidelines, Bell said, are an attempt to present these concerns to students and inform them of school expectations.

"I'm not a big rule person," Bell said. "But I think all institutions need some kind of guidance, and I think this policy will serve a useful purpose in helping people understand the parameters and expectations that exist."

Like similar policies adopted by high schools, colleges and other institutions across the country, the latest version of the community college's draft policy asks that camera cell phones be turned off and not used in locker rooms, restrooms and other parts of campus where privacy is expected.

Cell phones in classrooms may be on but must be silenced or on vibration mode only. Students must leave the classroom to respond to calls.

The guidelines would also ban students from using cell phones during any test, quiz or student assessment.

When students return from spring break, college officials will hold two more meetings to discuss the guidelines. Then the proposed policy will be turned over to the administration for final approval, Bell said.