

# State allows schools to write off 14 hours of instructional time

## Temporary rule to respond to snowstorms

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon Board of Education has approved a temporary rule to allow schools to opt out of 14 hours of state-mandated instructional time for this school year for inclement weather or facility closures.

The board unanimously passed the rule Thursday at the request of several school districts that closed schools for several days in December and January due to snow and ice storms statewide.

“It’s really unusual circumstances that is making us consider this flexibility,” said Salam Noor, deputy superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education.

Kim Sordyl, Secretary of

State Dennis Richardson’s new designee to the Board of Education, said the board should not count time missed for inclement weather as instructional time.

“We are already at the lowest in the country in terms of instructional time, and I don’t want you to easily give up that precious time,” Sordyl said, before a unanimous vote in favor of the temporary rule. Sordyl does not have a vote on the board.

Board of Education member Jerry Colonna said the temporary rule provides relief to districts that had different situations during the storms.

“This is one of those things where we want to be helpful instead of just compliance monitors,” Colonna said. “I resist the leap that this says we do not honor instructional time. I think we honor the differences around the state, and we want to be helpful in them being suc-

cessful in what they want to do.”

The rule is effective only for this school year and requires school districts to receive approval at a public meeting of their local school board. School districts must also provide a written request to the Department of Education, explaining why they cannot meet the minimum standard for instructional time.

“It’s not enough to solve the problem so school districts still will be required to add back days to comply with the minimum instructional time,” said Emily Nazarov, a Department of Education operations policy analyst.

Some school districts, such as Beaverton, shuttered schools for nearly two weeks. Others, such as Hermiston, have pushed back their graduation date by several days to make up missed time, according to officials in those districts.

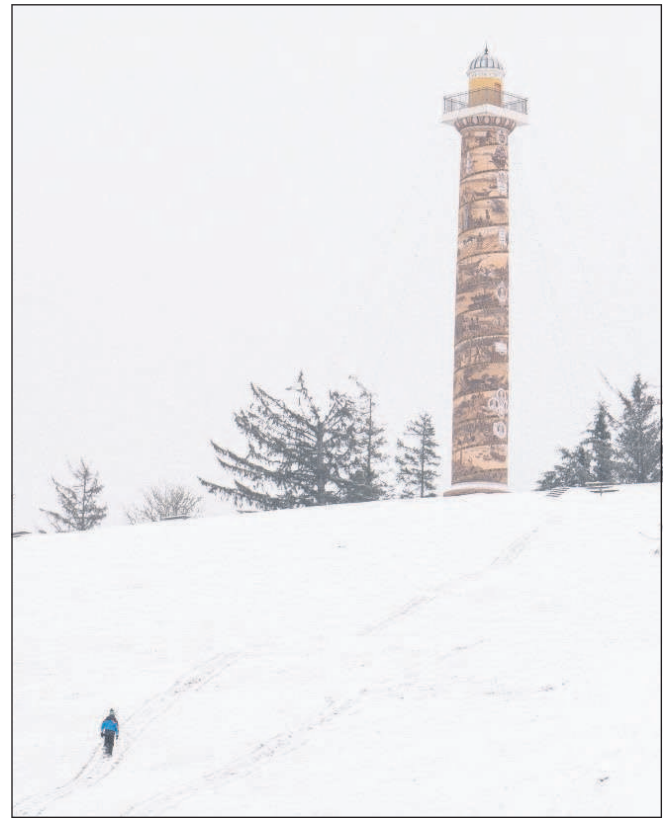
Schools in Clatsop County have only had a few snow days.

“We were just notified that Portland Public Schools is considering holding school during spring break and Saturdays and extending school days to make up the time,” Noor said.

Until 2015, the 14-hour waiver had been regularly available to schools to make up time for missed days due to inclement weather. That year, the Board of Education nixed the provision in order to protect instructional time, which is among the lowest amount required nationwide.

Schools are required to provide at least 900 hours of instruction annually to elementary and middle school pupils and 990 hours to high school students, except seniors who need only 966.

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*



**Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian**  
**Henry Hanson climbs up the Astoria Column hill as snow falls in Astoria in January on one of the few snow days for local schools.**

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA** AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
38	55 / 40	53 / 40	52 / 37	50 / 37
Partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Cloudy with a little rain in the afternoon	Cloudy	Considerable cloudiness

**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Thursday.

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 50°/36°

Normal high/low ..... 51°/38°

Record high ..... 63° in 1983

Record low ..... 16° in 1957

**Precipitation**

Thursday ..... 0.02"

Month to date ..... 5.70"

Normal month to date ..... 8.72"

Year to date ..... 5.70"

Normal year to date ..... 8.72"

**REGIONAL WEATHER**

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunset tonight ..... 5:13 p.m.

Sunrise Saturday ..... 7:43 a.m.

Moonrise today ..... 7:22 a.m.

Moonset today ..... 5:19 p.m.

**UNDER THE SKY**

Tonight's Sky: The new moon (4:07 p.m.) will be located on the same side of the earth as the sun and will not be visible in the night sky.

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**

Time	High	Time	Low
2:00 a.m.	8.2 ft.	7:33 a.m.	2.8 ft.
1:12 p.m.	9.4 ft.	8:08 p.m.	-0.5 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Sat.	Lo	W
Atlanta	48	31	s	52	33	s	
Boston	44	32	pc	42	30	pc	
Chicago	31	24	c	31	21	c	
Denver	39	17	s	46	23	pc	
Des Moines	31	26	c	32	26	c	
Detroit	36	28	sf	34	24	sf	
El Paso	48	26	s	50	27	s	
Fairbanks	21	9	pc	18	4	c	
Honolulu	82	66	pc	81	67	s	
Indianapolis	33	24	sf	32	22	c	
Kansas City	40	26	pc	38	28	pc	
Las Vegas	49	33	s	55	36	s	
Los Angeles	63	45	s	69	48	s	
Memphis	48	31	s	49	33	pc	
Miami	83	58	pc	75	56	pc	
Nashville	45	30	pc	51	28	pc	
New Orleans	56	43	pc	58	41	pc	
New York	45	32	pc	41	32	pc	
Oklahoma City	50	27	s	51	30	s	
Philadelphia	47	30	pc	41	30	pc	
St. Louis	37	29	c	38	30	pc	
Salt Lake City	28	14	c	27	14	c	
San Francisco	57	41	s	58	42	s	
Seattle	50	36	pc	53	39	pc	
Washington, DC	46	31	pc	46	33	pc	

# Disaster declared for storms in Josephine and Lane counties

The Daily Astorian

Damage estimates are about \$16 million.

President Donald Trump has declared a disaster for the storms and flooding in two Oregon counties in December.

The declaration makes federal money available to help state and local governments with repairs in Josephine and Lane counties.

funds to reduce the impacts of hazards statewide. We look forward to working with our local, state and federal partners throughout this recovery process, even as we are currently assessing damages from the winter storms we’ve had over the past few weeks to determine if additional federal assistance is warranted.”

# Attorneys in Hanford chemical vapor case head to mediation

Associated Press

RICHLAND, Wash. — Parties in a lawsuit over employee concerns about exposure to chemical vapors at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation are headed to mediation.

The Tri-City Herald reported that both plaintiffs and defendants have asked a federal judge to move back the lawsuit’s trial date in order to allow them to pursue a resolution out of court.

Dozens of Hanford work-

ers have been sickened by vapors escaping from underground nuclear waste storage tanks. The tanks contain wastes left over from the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Workers who smell the vapors are told to leave the area and are offered medical checks. Nearly all workers are medically cleared to return to work the same day.

Hanford for decades made plutonium for nuclear weapons, and the site near Richland in southeastern

Washington is now engaged in a massive cleanup of the resulting radioactive wastes.

The wastes are stored in 177 massive underground tanks, and it is vapors escaping from some of those tanks that are thought to be making workers sick. The vapors are invisible and are not radioactive. Their exact content is not known because the exact contents of the tanks, some dating back to World War II, are not known.

# Transit district seeks new volunteers for budget committee

The Daily Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District Board of Commissioners is seeking volunteers from Clatsop County, who are registered voters, to serve on the district budget committee.

The committee is comprised of seven district

board members, and seven community members, who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners and serve a three-year term. There are currently two community member positions open.

Budget committee meetings are held up to three times a year. Those interested in serving are asked

to submit a letter of interest by Feb. 15. Letters can be emailed to [jeff@ridethebus.org](mailto:jeff@ridethebus.org), dropped off at the Astoria Transit Center or mailed to Sunset Empire Transportation District, 900 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103.

For information, contact Jeff Hazen at 503-861-5399 or [jeff@ridethebus.org](mailto:jeff@ridethebus.org).

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

## DEATH

Jan. 17, 2017

COLE, Gregory Neal, 66, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

## CORRECTION

**Bride’s dad restored car** — In a story on Page 10 of The Daily Astorian’s wedding supplement Wednesday about the Courtney Rudat and Kevin Berry wedding,

the 1930 Hupmobile was restored by the bride’s stepfather, Randy Hansen. The article had attributed the restoration to the groom’s father.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

**Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Commission**, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.  
**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

## LOTTERIES

OREGON

**Thursday’s Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 6-0-3-9  
4 p.m.: 5-9-3-3  
7 p.m.: 2-1-7-1  
10 p.m.: 9-3-9-2

WASHINGTON

**Thursday’s Daily Game:** 9-2-2  
**Thursday’s Keno:** 03-09-13-14-22-24-25-28-32-34-40-43-45-47-52-55-57-63-76-80  
**Thursday’s Match 4:** 10-18-22-24

# Au Naturel 2017

## The Nude in the 21st Century

CCC Royal Nebeker Art Gallery  
January 26th - March 16th

Opening Reception:  
Thursday, February 9th, 6:00 p.m.

**Clatsop Community College**

[www.clatsopcc.edu](http://www.clatsopcc.edu)

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