

GAS: Pendleton prices now similar to neighbors

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tions or less and is usually characterized by geographic isolation or its proximity to a tourism attraction.
Pendleton was in the top ten highest gas prices as recently as several weeks ago, but a precipitous drop in the ensuing weeks brought prices closer to the surrounding market.
While offering no definitive answer about Pendleton's high fuel prices, Dodds said the city could be affect-

ed by something as simple as the free market.
If one gas station vendor consistently maintains higher gas prices than their competitors while still attracting customers, others will follow suit.
Dodds said the opposite is true for Florence, a town on the Oregon coast with about half the population of Pendleton, where one gas station continually lowers gas prices, resulting in a \$2.56 average.

TOURISM: City can now court larger conventions

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at the Rivoli after its renovation is complete.
The Pendleton Convention Center is also undergoing a renovation. Work is currently underway on a \$897,000 expansion to the center's east side.
Houk said he is going to appoint new members to the Pendleton Convention Center Advisory Committee and have them im-

mediately look into attracting bigger conventions to Pendleton.
Beard said the increased capacity could have a significant economic impact on Pendleton, noting that each tourist that stays in the city spends about \$200 at local stores and restaurants.
Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



AP Photo/Dewi Nurcahyani
National Search and Rescue Agency personnel carry parts of a plane found floating on the water near the site where AirAsia Flight 8501 disappeared, from a helicopter upon arrival at the airport in Pangkalan Bun, Indonesia on Jan. 2.

Weather worries remain in hunt for AirAsia plane

By EILEEN NG AND ROBIN MCDOWELL
Associated Press
SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP) — More ships arrived Friday with sensitive equipment to hunt for the fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501 and the more than 150 people still missing since it crashed into the sea five days ago.
Indonesia's Search and Rescue Agency chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo said efforts would be stepped up as long as the weather allowed.
"We will focus on underwater detection," he said, adding ships from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the U.S. had been on the scene since before dawn Friday to try to pinpoint wreckage and the all-important black boxes—the flight data and cockpit voice recorders.
The Airbus A320 crashed

into the Java Sea on Sunday with 162 people on board. Ten bodies have been recovered so far, with the latest, a female victim, announced Friday morning.
Nine planes, many with metal detecting equipment, were also scouring a 13,500 square kilometer (8,380 square mile) area off Pangkalan Bun, the closest town on Borneo island to the search area. Two Japanese ships with three helicopters were on their way to the area, Soelistyo said.
But he said bad weather, which has hindered the search the last several days, was a worry. A drizzle and light clouds covered the area Friday morning, but rain, strong winds and high waves up to 13 feet were forecast until Sunday. Strong sea currents have also kept debris moving.

BRIEFLY

Greece, Italy vary wildly on ferry missing numbers

BRINDISI, Italy (AP) — Greece and Italy have issued widely different figures for how many people are still not accounted for in the ferry fire that killed at least 11 people in the Adriatic Sea.
The numbers ranged from as many as 98, according to Italian prosecutor Giuseppe Volpe, to 18, according to the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry. Greece says Italy's list is full of duplications and misspellings but the discrepancy could not be immediately explained since the prosecutor's office was closed for the New Year holiday.
A tug began towing the fire-ravaged ferry across wind-whipped seas to Italy on Thursday afternoon. Giuseppe Barretta, owner of the tug boat company, told The Associated Press the operation started near the coast of Albania, where the Norman Atlantic ferry had been stranded after Sunday's pre-dawn fire, and estimated it could take 15 hours, depending on weather.
Once the ferry arrives in the Italian port of Brindisi.

Italian authorities will inspect it, searching for any other possible bodies.
The Italian Coast Guard said 477 people were rescued from the ferry. That figure, plus the 11 dead, would mean at least 488 people had been onboard.

New Year's stampede leaves 36 dead, 47 injured

SHANGHAI (AP) — Grieving relatives identified the bodies of loved ones a day after a stampede during New Year's celebrations along Shanghai's historic waterfront area killed 36 people. Some families lashed out at authorities, accusing them of being unresponsive to their plight and failing to prevent the disaster.
The chaos began about a half-hour before what was supposed to be a joyful celebration of the start of 2015. In the end, dozens were dead and 47 people were hospitalized, including 13 who were seriously injured, according to the Shanghai government. Some of the victims had suffocated, said Xia Shujie, of Shanghai Hospital.

What if Hillary doesn't run for president?

By KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Washington, in Iowa, in New Hampshire, really in any place that's already talking about the 2016 campaign for president, just about everyone expects Hillary Rodham Clinton to run for president.
But is it possible that Clinton might not give a White House campaign another try?

The former first lady, New York senator and U.S. secretary of state has paid speeches lined up into 2015, including one scheduled in the middle of March. She often speaks of her affinity for her work at the Clinton Foundation and joy over becoming a grandmother for the first time.
Clinton also recognizes — with plenty of personal experience — the downsides of a presidential campaign. "We say, 'OK, get ready, put your armor on, run that gauntlet, see who survives at the end,'" Clinton said in a speech last year in San Francisco. "And whoever is standing up still, that's the winner."
To be sure, such musings are overshadowed by evidence that Clinton will run again. She has largely left the potential 2016 field frozen in place, locking down financial donors, endorsements and connections around the country and in the early states like Iowa and New Hampshire.
Early polling shows her in a dominant position, outside groups have been promoting her candidacy for more than a year, and the fundraising juggernaut, EMILY's List, is well into laying a foundation for the



AP Photo/Elise Amendola, File
This Dec. 4 file photo shows former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaking at the Massachusetts Conference for Women in Boston.

campaign to elect the nation's first female president.
"It would be shocking," said Tad Devine, a Democratic strategist who is advising Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a potential challenger.
But what if? Such a decision would set off a chaotic shuffle in the Democratic Party as candidates now considered long-shots become instant contenders and politicians now planning to skip the race give it a new look.
"It might be a good thing to open it up and have competition based on ideas, not that it's her turn," said Dick Harpootlian, the former chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party who saw Vice President Joe Biden in October. He added: "I think we could do very well without Hillary."
Here's a look at some whose political fortunes and plans for 2016 could change if Clinton decides to pass on the race.
JOE BIDEN
In any other year, the sitting vice president would have an inside track to the

nomination. But Clinton's dominant standing within the party has marginalized Biden in early 2016 discussion. In a Clinton-free campaign, the veteran of runs for president in 1988 and 2008 would be an early front-runner.
ELIZABETH WARREN
The Massachusetts senator is a favorite of liberal activists, some of whom are trying to "draft" her into running for president — even though she has repeatedly said she is not. Warren's populist economic approach and calls to rein in Wall Street resonate with many Democrats disappointed by the midterm elections and the gap between the wealthy and the poor. If Clinton decides not to run, Warren is sure to face pressure to fill the void.
MARTIN O'MALLEY
The outgoing Maryland governor has been a workhorse surrogate for fellow Democrats, trying to build a network of financial donors — only to be effectively frozen by Clinton. Even without Clinton in the field,

the Republicans' defeat of his hand-picked successor in Maryland — and sagging poll ratings at the end of his term — would complicate his campaign.
JIM WEBB
The former Virginia senator would bring a bipartisan record to the campaign: he served as President Ronald Reagan's Navy secretary. He is an accomplished author and decorated veteran, still carrying shrapnel from his service in the Vietnam War. Independent and at times unpredictable, his foreign policy outlook and outsider status could shake up the primary with or without Clinton.
BERNIE SANDERS
Few Democrats expect the independent senator from Vermont to make much of an impact if he runs against Clinton, but that has not stopped Sanders from courting college students and liberals in Iowa and New Hampshire. He has maintained a large email distribution list, giving him a way of reaching activists, but is still more likely to shape the debate than compete for delegates no matter what Clinton does.
ANDREW CUOMO
When former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo declined to seek the White House in 1991 after a lengthy deliberation, the vacuum helped a relatively-unknown Arkansas governor named Bill Clinton. If Hillary decides not to run, it could give his son, current New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, an opening to jump into a race he does not plan to contest. The second-term governor has built a record on marriage equality, gun control and banning hydraulic fracturing in New York.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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