



AP Photo/Odessa American, Mark Sterkel

Officials investigate the scene of a prison transport bus crash, Wednesday in Penwell, Texas. Law enforcement officials said the bus carrying prisoners and corrections officers fell from an overpass in West Texas and crashed onto train tracks below, killing at least 10 people.

Ten dead after prison bus skids off highway, hits train

Associated Press

ODESSA, Texas — A prison bus skidded off an icy Texas highway, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing freight train Wednesday, killing eight inmates and two corrections officers, including the bus driver, authorities said.

The overpass on Interstate 20 was slick with ice Wednesday morning when the Texas Department of Criminal Justice bus left the roadway in Penwell, just west of Odessa, according to Ector County Sheriff Mark Donaldson.

The prisoners, who did not have seat belts, were handcuffed together in pairs, officials said. Some of them were ejected from the bus after it struck the train, said Trooper Elizabeth Barney of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

An earlier accident on the I-20 overpass may have contributed to the prison bus losing control, Donaldson said.

"It's as bad as you can imagine," Odessa Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Kavin Tinney told the Odessa American newspaper. "In 32 years it's as bad as anything I've seen."

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice confirmed

the 10 deaths in a statement, adding that four prisoners and one corrections officer were injured. Tiffany Harston, spokeswoman for Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, said four of the injured are in critical condition and one is in serious condition.

Jason Clark, a Department of Criminal Justice spokesman, said the bus was new and had been placed in service only this past summer. It was taking the inmates from the Middleton prison in Abilene to the Sanchez prison in El Paso, which is about 250 miles west of where the accident happened.

The prisoners did not have any leg restraints, said Jason Heaton, agency director for the region. Only the driver's seat had a seat belt, he said. Like many buses, the vehicle did not have seat belts on the bench-type seats where the prisoners were seated.

After the accident around 7:30 a.m., the white bus came to rest on its side, next to the railroad tracks, crumpled with heavy damage to its front and undercarriage. The top of the bus was caved inward.

The Union Pacific freight train with four locomotives

and 58 cars came to a stop soon after. None of the cars derailed, but two containers at the rear of the train were damaged, said Mark Davis, a railroad spokesman.

The containers were carrying hundreds of parcels and packages, many of which were strewn along the tracks.

No Union Pacific employees were injured.

The train, which was traveling from the Los Angeles area to Marion, Arkansas, remained stopped at the accident site several hours after the accident, Davis said.

"We'll send crews to inspect the train, inspect the track," he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending its own team of inspectors to the scene.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued a statement offering condolences to the families of those killed in the wreck.

"I also pray for a speedy recovery of a third correctional staff member and four offenders who were transported with injuries," he said.

In June, an inmate was killed and several other people were injured when a Department of Criminal Justice van collided with a car in Central Texas.

Two men reach top of El Capitan

Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — A pair of Americans on Wednesday completed what had long been considered the world's most difficult rock climb, using only their hands and feet to ascend a 3,000-foot vertical wall on El Capitan, the forbidding granite pedestal in Yosemite National Park that has beckoned adventurers for more than half a century.

Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson became the first to free-climb the rock formation's Dawn Wall, a feat that many had considered impossible. They used ropes and safety harnesses to catch them in case of a fall, but relied entirely on their own strength and dexterity to ascend by grasping cracks as thin as razor blades and as small as dimes.

The effort took 19 days, as the two dealt with constant falls and injuries. But their success completes a yearslong dream that bordered on obsession for the men.

Caldwell finished the climb first Wednesday afternoon. Jorgeson caught up minutes later. The two embraced before Jorgeson pumped his arms in the air and clapped his hands above his head. They then sat down for a few minutes, gathered their gear, changed their clothes and hiked to the summit.

The trek up the world's largest granite monolith began Dec. 27. Caldwell and Jorgeson lived on the wall itself. They ate and slept in tents fastened to the rock thousands of feet above the ground and battled painful cuts to their fingertips much of the way.

Free-climbers do not pull themselves up with cables or use chisels to carve out handholds. Instead, they climb inch by inch, wedging their fingertips and feet into tiny crevices or gripping sharp, thin projections of rock. In photographs, the two appeared at times like Spider-Man, with arms and legs splayed across the pale rock that has been described as



AP Photo/Ben Margot

Tommy Caldwell, left, and Kevin Jorgeson near the summit of El Capitan Wednesday as seen from the valley floor in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

smooth as a bedroom wall.

Both men needed to take rest days to wait for their skin to heal. They used tape and even superglue to help with the process. At one point, Caldwell set an alarm to wake him every few hours to apply a special lotion to his throbbing hands.

They also took physical punishment when their grip would slip, pitching them into long, swinging falls that left them bouncing off the rock face. The tumbles, which they called "taking a whipper," ended in startling jolts from their safety ropes.

Caldwell and Jorgeson had help from a team of supporters who brought food and supplies and shot video of the adventure.

The 36-year-old Caldwell and 30-year-old Jorgeson ate canned peaches and occasionally sipped whiskey. They watched their urine evaporate into

thin, dry air and handed toilet sacks, called "wag bags," to helpers who disposed of them.

There are about 100 routes up the rock known among climbers as "El Cap," and many have made it to the top, the first in 1958. Even the Dawn Wall had been scaled. Warren Harding and Dean Caldwell (no relation to Tommy) made it up in 1970, using climbing ropes and countless rivets over 27 days.

No one, however, had ever made it to the 3,000-foot summit in one continuous free-climb — until now.

"He doesn't understand the magnitude of the accomplishment and the excitement generated," said Mike Caldwell, Tommy's father, who along with another 200 people gathered at the meadow below broke into cheer when the men reached the top.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Fog in the a.m.; mostly cloudy	Occasional rain in the morning	Spotty showers in the afternoon	A.M. rain, then clouds and sun	Clouds and sun, a shower or two
38° 36°	50° 32°	43° 40°	53° 38°	49° 31°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 36°	32°
Normals 41°	27°
Records 62° (1961)	-9° (1930)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.25"
Normal month to date	0.76"
Year to date	0.25"
Last year to date	0.38"
Normal year to date	0.76"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 39°	36°
Normals 41°	28°
Records 65° (1994)	-5° (1930)

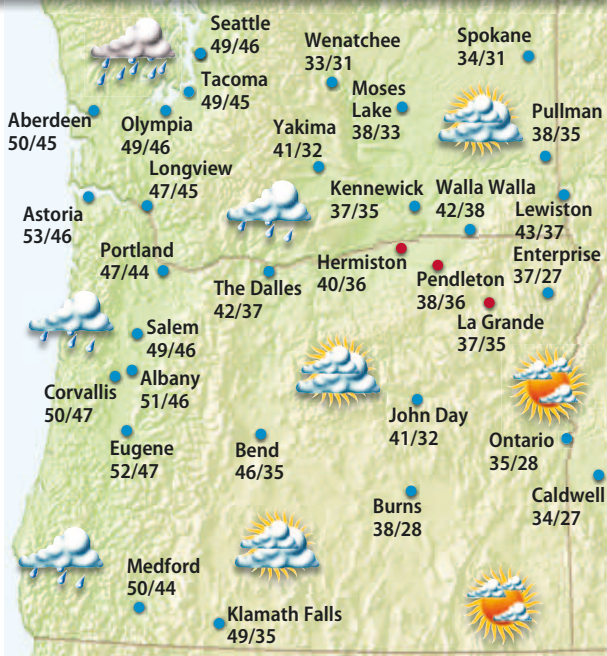
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	0.15"
Normal month to date	0.58"
Year to date	0.15"
Last year to date	0.27"
Normal year to date	0.58"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:32 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:37 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:25 a.m.
Moonset today	12:37 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 20	Jan 26	Feb 3	Feb 11



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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today; any time across the north, during the afternoon elsewhere.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Freezing fog morning fog; clouds and sun in the south today. Increasingly cloudy near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Periods of rain today; arriving in the afternoon across the south.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today. A wintry mix near the Cascades; snow in central parts. Morning freezing fog near the Idaho border.

Cascades: A passing shower this afternoon; increasing cloudiness in the south.

Northern California: Clouds and sun today. Periods of rain tonight, but dry in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	53	46	r	52	42	sh
Baker City	32	28	pc	36	18	sn
Bend	46	35	pc	46	30	r
Brookings	57	51	r	57	51	r
Burns	38	28	pc	42	22	sh
Enterprise	37	27	c	39	19	r
Eugene	52	47	r	54	43	sh
Heppner	41	35	c	50	29	pc
Hermiston	40	36	c	52	31	pc
John Day	41	32	pc	43	25	r
Klamath Falls	49	35	pc	48	34	sh
La Grande	37	35	c	43	23	r
Meacham	37	32	c	40	23	r
Medford	50	44	pc	55	43	r
Newport	55	48	r	55	48	sh
North Bend	59	51	r	59	50	sh
Ontario	35	28	pc	36	24	r
Pasco	38	35	c	53	30	pc
Pendleton	38	36	c	50	32	r
Portland	47	44	r	51	40	sh
Redmond	47	37	pc	49	29	r
Salem	49	46	r	54	43	sh
Spokane	34	31	c	38	26	r
Ukiah	41	33	c	44	25	r
Vancouver	59	48	pc	51	39	sh
Walla Walla	42	38	c	49	35	r
Yakima	41	32	sn	49	29	sn

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	41	22	pc	41	15	s
Hong Kong	65	55	s	68	55	s
Jerusalem	47	40	pc	50	43	r
London	47	38	r	44	30	pc
Mexico City	73	43	pc	72	43	pc
Moscow	35	23	c	30	24	c
Paris	49	38	r	46	34	pc
Rome	59	48	pc	59	53	c
Seoul	45	25	s	39	18	c
Sydney	82	68	t	84	68	s
Tokyo	46	40	r	51	40	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	SW 10-20
Boardman	VAR 2-4	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	SSE 4-8	WSW 10-20

UV INDEX TODAY

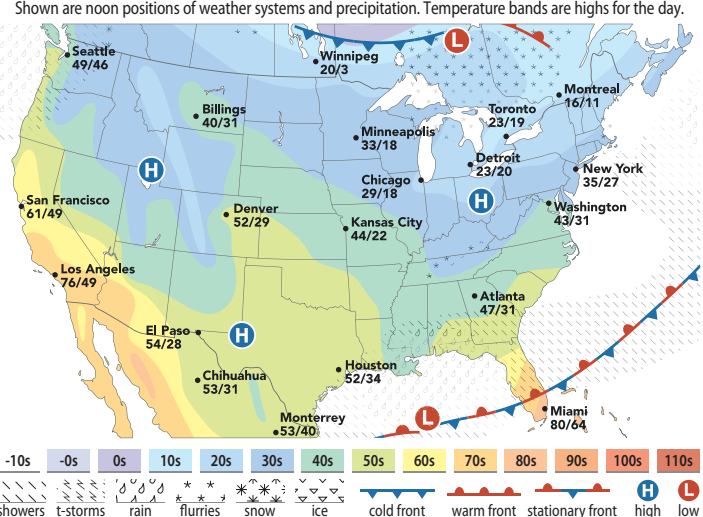
0	1	1	0	0	0
8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
0-2, Low	3-5, Moderate	6-7, High	8-10, Very High	11+, Extreme	

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Much of the nation can expect near- to above-average temperatures today. Rain will affect the Deep South and the coastal Northwest with spotty snow showers in New England and around the upper Great Lakes.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 79° in Pompano Beach, Fla. **Low -28°** in Houlton, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	46	24	pc	47	25	pc	Louisville	39	26	pc	42	30	pc
Atlanta	47	31	r	53	32	s	Memphis	43	29	pc	52	34	s
Atlanta City	41	32	pc	42	22	pc	Miami	80	64	pc	74	59	pc
Baltimore	40	25	pc	41	19	pc	Millwaukee	32	19	pc	28	24	pc
Billings	40	31	pc	42	31	c	Minneapolis	33	18	pc	31	23	c
Birmingham	42	26	r	51	29	s	Nashville	39	25	c	47	29	pc
Boise	34	29	pc	37	24	r	New Orleans	48	38	r	54	39	s
Boston	31	24	sf	34	9	pc	New York City	35	27	pc	37	17	pc
Charleston, SC	53	36	r	57	34	s	Oklahoma City	53	28	s			