

# Oregon State students plan 'smart bus'

By ANTHONY RIMEL  
Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS — Most people who asked Oregon State University students Alex Jacobson and Ryan Kalb about the bus in their driveway assumed they'd bought it as a party bus. Others asked if it was stolen.

"We were shocked by how many people were interested," he said.

A Facebook posting showing the pair parking the Corvallis city bus in their driveway generated more than 300 likes.

They both are electrical and computer engineering majors, and have a little something different in mind: they plan to convert the bus into a mobile electronics lab that would visit schools to teach students about the "Internet of Things."

That is the idea that everything from appliances to sprinkler systems eventually will have embedded computer chips and sensors in them that are connected to the Internet, which will enable programming and remote control.

"We wanted a topic that involved software and hardware interacting," Kalb said. "(The Internet of Things) is very new, and not many people know about it; it seems like that's the next step forward."

Roommates Kalb and Jacobson, who live near Jackson Avenue and 21st Street, said their goal is to make every element of the bus programmable: the lights and doors could be remotely controlled. The bus' exterior electronic sign, which formerly displayed routes and stops, could display messages that were Tweeted to the bus (once the messages have been passed through a language filter, that is).



AP Photo/The Corvallis Gazette-Times, Jesse Skoubo

In this April 5 photo, Oregon State students Ryan Kalb, left, and Alex Jacobson sit in their recently-purchased city bus in Corvallis, Ore. They both are electrical and computer engineering majors, and have a little something different in mind: they plan to convert the bus into a mobile electronics lab that would visit schools to teach students about the "Internet of Things."

plan to significantly increase the number of students who get a college degree. By 2025, the state expects to see 40 percent of students attain at least a four-year degree and another 40 percent earn an associate's degree or other career credential. The other 20 percent are expected to at least graduate from high school.

Three years into the effort, Oregon continues to have one of the nation's lowest graduation rates.

Saxton's departure comes less than two months after Kitzhaber resigned amid a conflict-of-interest scandal involving fiancée Cylvia Hayes and her sustainable energy consulting business. Crew left for New York after one year, and he was replaced by Nancy Golden, who remains on the job.

New Gov. Kate Brown will appoint Saxton's replacement. She has yet to say whether she wanted Saxton to stay or wanted her own person in the position.

Jacobson, a second-year student at OSU who interned in research and development with drone maker 3D Robotics, said his ambition is to make the entire bus voice-controlled via an operating system that would be a little like the operating system for Iron Man's suit in the recent Marvel movie.

Kalb knows a little something about remote controls. He even works remotely — from Corvallis — for Palo Alto-based electric car manufacturer Tesla. He said he's interested in modifying

the bus by adding warnings, such as one to alert the driver if the bus drifts out of its lane. Sensors also could give the driver more information about vehicles, objects or people in the bus' large blind spots and assist the driver with parking.

"We actually want to make it a smart bus," he said.

The seats will be removed to make room for equipment and educational displays, he said, but some legacy parts, such as the bus' cash box, will be kept — and converted into a donation box.

Kalb said they got idea for converting the bus in mid-March, when they saw it for sale on Craigslist during finals week. They initially thought to make it a mobile headquarters for all their electronics gear, but they eventually decided to go for the larger conversion.

After a few weeks of discussion, they bought the bus for \$3,600, with contributions from family and friends. The Corvallis Transit System had sold it at auction to recycling company Magnet for Metal LLC, which resold it to Kalb and Jacobson.

"It's fun for us to do something crazy like this," Kalb said.

## BRIEFLY

### Judge hears arguments in revived climate change suit

EUGENE (AP) — An Oregon judge has heard arguments in a case brought by two Eugene teens who have spent years contending that the state is failing to take adequate steps to stave off climate change.

The *Register-Guard* reports that 19-year-old Kelsey Juliana and 14-year-old Olivia Chernaik and their lawyers want Lane County Circuit Judge Karsten Rasmussen to rule that the atmosphere is a resource that state officials have a duty to protect on behalf of the public.

The teens originally filed suit in 2011. Rasmussen dismissed the case in 2012, saying he was being asked to do a job that should fall to the Legislature and the governor. However, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled last year that Rasmussen does have jurisdiction to consider the lawsuit's merits.

Attorneys representing state government say Oregon already has passed a number of regulations to protect the environment. Lawyers for the teens contend that the state's carbon emission reduction plan is too weak.

After Tuesday's two-hour hearing, Rasmussen is expected to issue a written ruling in the coming weeks.

### Defense contractor settles bribery charges for \$9.5 million

PORTLAND (AP) — Defense contractor FLIR Systems Inc. has agreed to pay \$9.5 million to settle bribery charges filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC announced the deal Wednesday. It says the thermal-imaging company based in Wilsonville earned more than \$7 million in profits from sales influenced by improper travel and gifts for Middle Eastern government officials.

The commission says two employees in FLIR's Dubai office gave expensive watches to officials with the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Interior. The company also arranged travel for Saudi officials, including a 20-night trip with stops in Beirut, Casablanca, Dubai, New York and Paris.

The SEC says FLIR reported the misconduct and cooperated with the investigation.

A FLIR statement says the actions of the two former workers don't reflect the company's values.

### Washington tribe sues to block oil trains across its land

ANACORTES, Wash. (AP) — The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is suing BNSF Railway, alleging the company is violating an agreement that restricts the number of trains that can cross its reservation in northwest Washington.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court argues that a 1991 easement signed by the railway's predecessor only allows two 25-car trains each day.

The suit says several 100-car trains carrying crude oil from the Bakken region cross the reservation in Skagit County each week. The tracks serve to oil refineries in Anacortes.

The *Seattle Times* reports that BNSF says it has received the lawsuit and is reviewing it.

The tribe wants to block the movement of crude oil across its lands. Tribal chairman Brian Cladosby says the shipments of crude oil put people and the tribe's way of life at risk.

## Oregon schools chief Rob Saxton resigns for job at district

By STEVEN DUBOIS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The man chosen by former Gov. John Kitzhaber to head Oregon's public school system announced his resignation Wednesday.

Rob Saxton, whose formal title is deputy superintendent of public instruction, said in a letter to state Department of Education employees he's made a bittersweet decision to leave for another job June 30.

Saxton accepted a two-year contract to become superintendent of the Northwest Regional Education Service District. He will make \$161,120 a year — roughly \$30,000 less than what he makes now. Saxton was not immediately available for an interview.

The 2011 Legislature, at Kitzhaber's request, changed the head of public schools from an elected position to an appointed position.

Kitzhaber chose Saxton for the job in July 2012. They, along with then-Chief Education Officer Rudy Crew, started to implement the ambitious "40-40-20"



Saxton

plan to significantly increase the number of students who get a college degree. By 2025, the state expects to see 40 percent of students attain at least a four-year degree and another 40 percent earn an associate's degree or other career credential. The other 20 percent are expected to at least graduate from high school.

Three years into the effort, Oregon continues to have one of the nation's lowest graduation rates.

Saxton's departure comes less than two months after Kitzhaber resigned amid a conflict-of-interest scandal involving fiancée Cylvia Hayes and her sustainable energy consulting business. Crew left for New York after one year, and he was replaced by Nancy Golden, who remains on the job.

New Gov. Kate Brown will appoint Saxton's replacement. She has yet to say whether she wanted Saxton to stay or wanted her own person in the position.

"I congratulate Rob on this new opportunity and thank him for his service to the students of Oregon," she said in a statement emailed by a spokeswoman. "I am considering next steps in the context of the broader discussions about education policies and resources."

Saxton enjoyed working with Brown and was not forced out, Education Department spokeswoman Crystal Greene said. "This was definitely something that was his decision," she said.

Northwest Regional, based in Hillsboro, is the largest of the state's 19 education service districts, serving Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. ESDs provide centralized administrative, technical and special education services for multiple school districts.

Saxton will replace retiring Superintendent James Sager. The district approached Saxton to gauge his interest in the job, Northwest Regional spokeswoman Megan Stenberg said.

## 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
Mostly sunny	Sunshine mixing with some clouds	Cooler with a couple of showers	Partial sunshine	Mostly cloudy with a shower

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
62°	39°	67°	46°	57°
39°	67°	46°	57°	36°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
66°	36°	70°	47°	61°
36°	70°	47°	61°	36°
61°	36°	61°	36°	61°
36°	61°	36°	61°	36°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	55°	39°
Normals	60°	38°
Records	83° (1925)	21° (1929)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.22"  
Normal month to date 0.36"  
Year to date 2.96"  
Last year to date 4.82"  
Normal year to date 4.32"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	39°
Normals	63°	38°
Records	87° (1977)	22° (1952)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.26"  
Normal month to date 0.19"  
Year to date 1.78"  
Last year to date 2.81"  
Normal year to date 3.30"

### SUN AND MOON

	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise today		6:21 a.m.		
Sunset tonight		7:33 p.m.		
Moonrise today		n.p.m.		
Moonset today		9:40 a.m.		

Apr 11   Apr 18   Apr 25   May 3

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	60	39	s	55	42	r
Baker City	56	27	sh	65	36	s
Bend	57	29	s	62	36	pc
Brookings	55	43	s	54	46	pc
Burns	57	26	s	64	32	s
Enterprise	52	30	sh	60	37	s
Eugene	64	37	s	63	44	pc
Heppner	60	33	s	67	43	pc
Hermiston	66	36	s	70	47	pc
John Day	57	36	s	64	41	s
Klamath Falls	58	24	s	60	31	s
La Grande	57	29	s	66	43	s
Meacham	54	29	s	62	37	s
Medford	68	39	s	68	43	pc
Newport	57	40	s	54	44	pc
North Bend	59	42	s	57	48	pc
Ontario	62	33	sh	69	43	pc
Pasco	67	37	s	71	47	pc
Pendleton	62	39	s	67	46	s
Portland	66	42	s	63	46	pc
Redmond	60	28	s	65	36	pc
Salem	64	39	s	63	45	pc
Spokane	59	38	s	62	42	pc
Ukiah	56	30	s	63	38	s
Vancouver	65	40	s	63	45	pc
Walla Walla	64	43	pc	69	49	s
Yakima	66	36	s	67	41	pc

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	66	42	s	69	45	pc
Hong Kong	77	69	c	77	68	c
Jerusalem	64	44	pc	56	43	pc
London	64	44	pc	67	50	pc
Mexico City	78	54	pc	77	53	pc
Moscow	45	34	pc	49	35	pc
Paris	66	43	s	68	50	pc
Rome	64	46	s	63	45	s
Seoul	58	36	pc	63	37	s
Sydney	70	60	pc	70	59	sh
Tokyo	54	45	pc	54	49	r

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	W 2-4	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	NW 4-8	W 6-12

### UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 5 3 1

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.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2015

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

**National Summary:** A severe storm track that includes a few tornadoes will cover an area from Texas to Michigan today. Rain will soak areas from Nebraska to northern Michigan and Pennsylvania. Much of the West will be sunny.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 93° in Presidio, Texas      Low -2° in Clayton Lake, Maine

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	67	42	s	72	44	pc	Louisville	83	56	t	67	45	t
Atlanta	86	67	t	80	57	t	Memphis	82	58	t	72	50	pc
Baltimore	50	47	sh	67	47	t	Miami	86	74	s	86	73	pc
Birmingham	58	35	pc	63	42	pc	Millwaukee	60	38	t	55	34	pc
Boise	59	38	pc	68	43	s	Minneapolis	42	34	r	53	33	pc
Boston	41	37	r	63	43	s	Nashville	84	61	t	70	43	t
Charlotte, SC	86	64	sh	84	65	pc	New Orleans	85	71	c	83	70	t
Charlotte, WV	85	64	t	70	44	t	New York City	43	40	r	67	49	t
Chicago	72	41	t	60	34	pc	Oklahoma City	81	45	s	70	51	s
Cleveland	71	57	t	57	36	sh	Omaha	53	33	r	66	36	s
Dallas	84	57	t	76	62	pc	Philadelphia	47	43	r	75	47	t
Denver	52	34	r	66	41	pc	Phoenix	83	58	r	87	60	s
Detroit	70	46	t	58	35	pc	Portland, ME	41	37	r	55	41	c
El Paso	79	54	pc	83	56	s	Providence	44	38	r	61	43	c
Fairbanks	49	25	c	45	24	c	Raleigh	81	63	t	84	54	t
Fargo	59	30	c	57	34	c	Rapid City	54	24	sn	64	33	pc
Honolulu	81	68	pc	81	68	pc	Reno	64	36	pc	68	36	s
Houston													