

# Tensions between police and communities

The Associated Press

Killings of suspects by police officers in the past year have touched off a national debate about police conduct, which has only escalated as additional interactions between police and suspects — lethal or otherwise — are captured on video by law enforcement or civilians. Here are some recent developments.

## Feds to investigate death of Baltimore man in police custody

The U.S. Justice Department said Tuesday it has opened an investigation into the death of Baltimore resident Freddie Gray, whose spine was nearly severed while in police custody.

A vigil was planned for Tuesday evening where he was arrested April 12.

Gray, 25, died Sunday. Court records show he suffered a medical emergency while being taken to the police station in a van and was rushed to the hospital. The officers involved have been placed on leave.

Civilian and police video show Gray being loaded into the van, but not the entire encounter.

Justice Department spokeswoman Dena Iverson said federal investigators will look for evidence of whether an officer willfully violated Gray's civil rights by using unreasonable force.

Baltimore officials released a plan six months ago to reduce police brutality and misconduct, which followed a request by city officials to the Justice Department to review police policies and procedures.

## Ex-Alabama officer pleads not guilty in confrontation with Indian grandfather

A former Alabama police officer pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a federal charge of violating the rights of an Indian grandfather injured during a confrontation a few months ago.

Eric Sloan Parker, 26, is accused of using unreasonable force in February against 57-year-old Sureshbhai Patel, who was walking in suburban Madison where he was visiting family when a resident called police about a suspicious man.

Police video captured images of an officer slamming Patel to the ground face-first. Patel is still recovering from injuries.

Parker made a brief appearance before a judge in Huntsville and is free on a \$5,000 bond before a scheduled June 1 trial. He also faces a state assault charge.

## Oklahoma reserve deputy pleads not guilty

A 73-year-old volunteer reserve deputy who fatally shot a suspect who



Amy Davis/The Baltimore Sun via AP

**Edward Brown speaks at a protest outside City Hall about Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Monday. Baltimore's top police officials, mayor and prosecutor sought to calm a "community on edge" Monday while investigating how Gray suffered a fatal spine injury while under arrest. Six officers have been suspended, but investigators say they still don't know how it happened.**

was pinned down by officers pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a second-degree manslaughter charge.

Robert Bates declined to comment before he made his initial court appearance in Tulsa district court. His next court date is July 2.

The Tulsa County volunteer has said he shot Eric Harris on April 2 after confusing his stun gun and handgun. Harris, 44, died after running from a sting operation involving gun sales. Bates was charged after the sheriff's office released video of the shooting in which he is overheard apologizing for shooting Harris.

Sheriff Stanley Glanz said Bates was properly trained and passed firearms certifications. Harris' family lawyer, Dan Smolen, said the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office violated a number of its policies by letting Bates carry his personal handgun after training at the range on another weapon.

## Detroit-area officer makes initial court appearance on assault charge

A judge entered a not guilty plea on Tuesday for a Detroit-area police officer charged in the beating of a motorist that was caught on video.

William Melendez appeared in Inkster District Court a day after the charges of mistreatment of a prisoner and assault — both felonies — were announced in the Jan. 28 traffic stop.

Floyd Dent, 57, was hauled out of his car and repeatedly punched in the head, leaving him bloodied. Prosecutors say they didn't know about the beating until a TV station aired dashcam video of the arrest in March.

The 46-year-old Melendez, whose bond is \$25,000, is a former Detroit officer and has now been fired as an officer in Inkster and Highland Park.

## Man charged with disorderly conduct for threatening officer

The brother of an unarmed woman killed in police gunfire after a 2012 high-speed chase was charged Monday with disorderly conduct after reportedly making a death threat against the Cleveland officer standing trial.

A court security guard reported 35-year-old Alfredo Williams said outside of the courtroom last week that he'd kill officer Michael Brelo if he wasn't convicted of manslaughter.

Prosecutors say Brelo, 31, fired his last 15 rounds after the car stopped moving and Timothy Russell and Alfredo Williams' sister, Malissa Williams, were no longer a threat.

## Pennsylvania judge considers releasing video of officer-involved shooting

A judge refused to rule Tuesday whether Pennsylvania prosecutors can release video that authorities say shows a police officer fatally shooting an unarmed man in the back.

Dauphin County Judge Deborah Curcillo rejected a request by the lawyer for Hummelstown Police Officer Lisa Mearkle, 36, who's charged with criminal homicide.

The judge said it was premature to issue such an order because prosecutors had not advocated making it public prior to the officer's trial. Curcillo said she plans to schedule another hearing if prosecutors say they intend to do so.

Defense lawyer Brian Perry argued the video was likely to affect potential jurors and would present a partial and misleading impression of the events that caused the death of 59-year-old motorist David Kassick in early February. Both Mearkle and Kassick were white.

# House committee approves \$2 million pesticide measure

Some lawmakers warn against changes to bill

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Farm regulators would receive an additional \$2 million for regulating pesticides in Oregon under legislation passed by a key legislative committee.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources approved House Bill 3434, which funds increased pesticide rule enforcement, despite concerns by some lawmakers over how the money will be spent.

Numerous pesticide bills were considered by the committee this year, including bans on neonicotinoids and aerial spraying, before a work group narrowed down several concepts, including:

- Initiating a review of no-spray buffers by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Establishing standard operating procedures for investigating pesticide complaints by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- Increasing the maximum civil penalties for pesticide violations by two-fold.

During an April 21 work session, Committee Chair Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie, said these concepts would be taken up in a

new bill before the House Rules Committee.

However, the funding component — House Bill 3434 — remained before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, said he was uncomfortable with approving \$2 million in funding for pesticide programs that may be changed by the House Rules Committee.

"They can take your ideas and chose to do whatever they want to do," he said.

Rep. Gail Whitsett, R-Klamath Falls, said she also planned to vote against HB 3434 for the same reason.

"I don't know what might happen down there," she said.

Witt said he was assured the upcoming bill before the Rules Committee would reflect the one agreed upon

by committee members and the pesticide work group.

Rep. Wayne Krieger, R-Gold Beach, and Rep. Sal Esquivel, R-Medford, said they would give HB 3434 "courtesy votes" but may change their positions depending on what happens with the remaining pesticide legislation.

The committee voted 6-2 to refer the bill to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with a "do pass" recommendation.

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

**"They can take your ideas and chose to do whatever they want to do."**

— Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove

## 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	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Clouds and sun; breezy, cooler	Partly sunny	Breezy with some sun	Considerable cloudiness	Rather cloudy, showers around

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
59° 34° 61° 41° 58° 37° 59° 42° 63° 45°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
64° 34° 66° 42° 65° 37° 66° 42° 70° 42°

**ALMANAC**

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	76°	43°
Normals	64°	40°
Records	92° (1934)	26° (1951)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.27"  
Normal month to date 0.83"  
Year to date 3.01"  
Last year to date 5.16"  
Normal year to date 4.79"

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	42°
Normals	66°	40°
Records	92° (1934)	20° (1951)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.26"  
Normal month to date 0.57"  
Year to date 1.78"  
Last year to date 3.06"  
Normal year to date 3.68"

**SUN AND MOON**

	First	Full	Last	New
	Apr 25	May 3	May 11	May 17

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Clouds and sun today; a shower in spots across the north. Mostly sunny in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Clouds and sun today with a shower, except a thunderstorm in spots in the south.

Western Washington: Clouds and breaks of sun today. A shower; only in the morning across the south.

Eastern Washington: A shower in spots in the morning; otherwise, partly sunny today.

Cascades: Cooler today with variable cloudiness; a shower in spots across the north.

Northern California: Some sun today. Windy at the coast; a thunderstorm in the interior mountains.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	55	40	c	54	42	c
Baker City	60	27	pc	65	36	pc
Bend	55	24	pc	60	32	c
Brookings	61	43	s	56	43	pc
Burns	63	21	pc	66	32	pc
Enterprise	57	29	pc	61	37	pc
Eugene	59	34	c	58	38	c
Heppner	58	30	pc	62	37	pc
Hermiston	64	34	pc	66	42	pc
John Day	55	30	pc	62	38	pc
Klamath Falls	63	26	pc	63	32	c
La Grande	56	29	pc	60	38	pc
Meacham	50	24	pc	56	33	pc
Medford	65	37	pc	65	43	c
Newport	52	38	c	52	41	pc
North Bend	56	42	pc	56	44	c
Ontario	72	38	pc	70	43	s
Pasco	66	36	pc	67	43	pc
Pendleton	59	34	pc	61	41	pc
Portland	59	41	c	57	42	pc
Redmond	58	24	pc	62	31	c
Salem	59	37	c	57	40	pc
Spokane	59	36	pc	60	41	s
Ukiah	56	28	pc	60	36	s
Vancouver	58	38	c	57	40	c
Walla Walla	62	41	pc	65	45	pc
Yakima	65	35	pc	66	38	c

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	79	55	s	83	50	pc
Hong Kong	81	72	pc	81	73	c
Jerusalem	65	47	s	62	45	sh
London	62	45	s	62	44	pc
Mexico City	72	52	pc	73	51	t
Moscow	57	48	pc	61	45	sh
Paris	69	45	s	69	50	pc
Rome	69	49	s	67	50	s
Seoul	66	40	pc	66	42	pc
Sydney	67	59	r	73	59	sh
Tokyo	63	54	pc	66	54	s

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Thu
Boardman	WSW 12-25	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	WSW 15-25	W 8-16

**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.

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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:** Showers will affect the Midwest and Northeast today with wet snow mixed in near the Great Lakes. Locally severe storms will occur in the South Central states with spotty showers in the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 92° in Marathon, Fla. Low 15° in Angel Fire, N.M.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	75	46	s	72	46	pc
Atlanta	78	59	s	72	51	c
Atlantic City	60	40	r	51	38	pc
Baltimore	67	38	t	58	37	s
Billings	71	45	s	68	46	c
Birmingham	79	57	pc	70	53	c
Boise	71	39	s	68	42	pc
Boston	64	42	sh	53	38	pc
Charleston, SC	81	62	s	78	56	c
Charleston, WV	59	36	sh	60	35	s
Chicago	51	31	pc	55	32	s
Cleveland	48	35	pc	49	34	pc
Dallas	75	63	t	79	67	t
Denver	67	43	pc	69	43	t
Detroit	47	31	pc	50	30	pc
El Paso	81	55	s	77	54	pc
Fairbanks	52	26	pc	58	31	s
Fargo	52	19	s	54	28	s
Honolulu	84	70	pc	85	71	pc
Houston	84	68	t	87	71	c
Indianapolis	53	32	pc	58	34	s
Jacksonville	85	59	s	85	63	t
Kansas City	58	38	s	63	46	pc
Las Vegas	77	58	pc	74	57	pc
Little Rock	75	54	t	64	53	c
Los Angeles	68	56	pc	68	55	pc
Louisville	61	39	sh	65	43	s
Memphis	74	51	t	63	53	c
Miami	85	74	t	88	73	t
Millwaukee	45	30	pc	49	31	s
Minneapolis	49	28	s	55	34	s
Nashville	67	43	c	63	42	c
New Orleans	64	69	t	84	70	t
New York City	62	43	r	54	40	pc
Oklahoma City	68	53	t	69	60	t
Omaha	57	34	s	65	45	s
Philadelphia	65	41	r	56	38	pc
Phoenix	87	62	pc	82	61	c
Portland, ME	58	39	pc	54	35	sh
Providence	64	39	r	54	34	pc
Raleigh	77	49	pc	67	43	s
Rapid City	63	31	s	67	41	t
Reno	67	45	pc	68	46	pc
Sacramento	78	53	pc	78	49	pc
St. Louis	61	38	s	65	45	s
Salt Lake City	73	50	pc	68	48	t
San Diego	68	60	c	67	60	pc
San Francisco	68	51	pc	64	52	pc
Seattle	58	43	c	55	43	sh
Tucson	84	53	s	80	50	pc
Washington, DC	68	43	t	61	43	s