

## Bill would let motorcycles drive between cars

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Senate on Thursday backed a bill allowing motorcycles to pass between cars or trucks during highway traffic jams. Senators responded to motorcyclists who say it's safer for them to drive around vehicles than to face the constant risk of being hit from behind in stop-and-go traffic. "This is for those situations, mostly in urban areas, where the road has become a parking lot," said Sen. Jeff Kruse, a Roseburg Republican who sponsored the bill. The Senate's 18-10 vote sends the measure to the House.

Motorcycle and moped riders on a highway with a speed limit of at least 50 mph would gain the right to pass between vehicles if traffic moves at no more than 10 mph. They'd have to keep their speed below 20 mph and would be required to drive "in a cautious and prudent manner."

The practice, known as lane filtering, is common in much of Europe and Asia but is illegal in most of the United States. It's practiced in California, though it's not explicitly legal or illegal under state law there, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. Proponents say lane filtering improves the flow of traffic in jurisdictions where it's legal and also creates incentives for people to drive motorcycles, which are more fuel-efficient than passenger vehicles.

Critics say bringing lane filtering to Oregon could increase the risk of collisions.

"Motorcycles are inherently very dangerous vehicles," said Sen. Rod Monroe, D-Portland. "Any time a motorcycle gets into a crash with an automobile, the motorcycle loses... There will be motorcyclists who will die if this becomes law."

The measure is the second highway bill approved this week. The House voted Tuesday to designate the far left lane as a passing lane on high-speed roads.

## Jailer can't cite insanity for having sex with inmate

HILLSBORO (AP) — A former Oregon jail worker accused of having sex with an inmate will not be allowed to present an insanity defense.

The Oregonian reports that a Washington County judge ruled Wednesday that the attorney representing 33-year-old Brett Robinson did not give enough notice of his intent to use the insanity

## BRIEFLY

defense. Robinson sobbed when the judge announced his decision. She is accused of having sex with a 25-year-old gang member from the maximum-security unit of Washington County Jail. Her lawyer filed noticed days before the April 28 trial that he planned to use the opinion of a psychologist who diagnosed Robinson with depression and anxiety. Robinson's former coworker pleaded guilty to having sex with the same inmate earlier this year. She was sentenced to more than four years in prison.

## Oregon search for missing plane, pilot in third day

PORTLAND (AP) — The pilot of a small plane missing on a flight through Oregon's Willamette Valley has been identified as a Vancouver, Washington, man bound for his hometown.

The Civil Air Patrol's Oregon Wing said Thursday evening it has investigated what was thought to be a weak emergency signal reported in the general search area from south of Eugene, Oregon, to Vancouver. KATU-TV in Portland reports that Lt. Col. Thomas Traver says ground crews searched the area where the signal originated but didn't find anything. Traver says such false leads are frequent but each one is investigated.

Authorities say the single-engine, Piper PA-28 Cherokee plane carrying 41-year-old Lee Leslie took off late Tuesday afternoon from Hobby Field in Creswell, Oregon. Leslie is believed to have been alone in the plane. He was headed to Pearson Field in Vancouver.

The Civil Air Patrol says it has been deploying airplanes with trained spotters.

## Teen's prom proposal lands him suspension

LA CENTER, Wash. (AP) — A Washington teen who strapped fake explosives around his body in a stunt to ask a date to the prom has been suspended from school.

The Columbian in Vancouver reports that the five-day suspension for Ibrahim Ahmad will prevent him from attending La Center High's dance Saturday.

Ahmad says he was trying to go all out with his promposal. The 18-year-old senior wore a vest filled with paper-tube props made to look like explosives. At lunchtime, he stood on the cafeteria stage and held

a sign inviting his would-be date to the prom.

School Superintendent Mark Mansell says Ahmad's actions were inexcusable and that he deserved punishment for disrupting the learning environment.

Ahmad and his date will likely go on a dinner date since he can't go to the prom.

## Seattle suspends fines for throwing food in garbage

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle residents who toss food waste in the trash won't be fined starting July 1 as initially proposed.

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray says he is suspending fines for households and businesses that don't compost. The earliest fines may be issued is Jan. 1.

Murray said Wednesday he wants more time and additional outreach to educate people about the new recycling rules.

Last fall, the city passed an ordinance prohibiting food in garbage. Homeowners found with excess food in their trash would be fined \$1 for each violation. The fine is up to \$50 for a business or apartment complex.

Collectors began tagging garbage bins with warnings in January.

The mayor says the new composting program is working and the city has a good chance of hitting its 60 percent recycling goal.

## Coast Guard reassigns commander, citing loss of confidence

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP) — The commander of a U.S. Coast Guard vessel has been temporarily relieved of his post, and the service said it has lost confidence in his ability to lead.

The Coast Guard identified him as Cmdr. John Bitterman, who took the helm of the Astoria-based cutter Steadfast in July.

The Coast Guard would not specify a reason, said a spokesman, Lt. Donnie Brzuska of the Pacific Area Command in Alameda, California.

Bitterman was reassigned to the Coast Guard Warrenton station pending an investigation. He did not respond to a request for comment made through the Coast Guard.

The cutter's temporary leader is Cmdr. John Pruitt of the Motion Picture & Television Office in Los Angeles.

The Daily Astorian reports the 210-foot Steadfast patrols from the Pacific Northwest to South America.



Anna Reed/Statesman-Journal via AP  
A full house is seated for a public hearing of the House Committee on Rules on Senate Bill 941 at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Wednesday. The bill would require background checks for private gun sales and transfers. There were also three overflow rooms.

## GUNS: 4 percent of background checks failed for mental health reasons

Continued from 1A

state police completed 188,714 background checks and less than 1 percent resulted in investigations.

Of the 1,626 attempted purchases police investigated, 4 percent failed a background check for mental health reasons, 12 percent because they were wanted in connection to an alleged crime and roughly 10 percent were prohibited from purchasing the firearm because it had been reported as stolen, according to an EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau analysis of data from the Oregon State Police.

The remaining 73 percent of failed background checks were tied to people such as convicted felons who are prohibited from purchasing the weapons.

Ferrioli said he is proud of the impact from this change in policy, and believes the investigations also offer an opportunity for state troopers to help people incorrectly denied the purchase of a weapon due to the mixup of a name or other issues.

"The thing I'm proudest of is this didn't require us to pass a law," Ferrioli said. "Not only are we scooping up the bad guys, but we're clearing the good guys and I thought that was exactly what we were supposed to be doing with that law."

Seven people challenged

the results of their background checks in March, according to the Oregon State Police. Also that month, five people were arrested as a result of the investigations and 72 cases were referred to district attorneys.

Lt. Josh Brooks, a public information officer for the Oregon State Police, said the amount of time troopers spend on the investigations varies.

"Obviously, it takes time away from other missions and duties the organization has," Brooks said. "But at the same time, we recognize individuals who are engaging in this type of behavior and trying to buy firearms when they're prohibited from doing so are violating the law."

Senate Bill 941 contains language that would make it clear in state law that the Oregon State Police can investigate failed background checks and report the findings to other law enforcement agencies.

Although Kitzhaber is no longer in office, the policy of investigating people who fail background checks also has the support of Gov. Kate Brown.

"The Governor's Office supports the Oregon State Police's efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others whom the law has deemed should not have access to them," Kristen Grainger, a spokeswoman for Brown, wrote in an email this week.

## 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.

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Breezy with some sun	Variably cloudy with a shower	Sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny, nice and warm

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
57°	37°	56°	33°	60°
63°	38°	62°	33°	68°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
63°	38°	62°	33°	68°
63°	38°	62°	33°	68°

### ALMANAC

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	37°
Normals	64°	40°
Records	89° (1910)	26° (2013)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.27"  
Normal month to date 0.90"  
Year to date 3.01"  
Last year to date 5.45"  
Normal year to date 4.86"

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

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	58°	44°
Normals	67°	41°
Records	86° (2012)	24° (2013)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace  
Month to date 0.26"  
Normal month to date 0.64"  
Year to date 1.78"  
Last year to date 3.29"  
Normal year to date 3.75"

### SUN AND MOON

	First	Full	Last	New
Sunrise today	5:55 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	7:53 p.m.			
Moonrise today	10:59 a.m.			
Moonset today	1:04 a.m.			

Apr 25 May 3 May 11 May 17

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

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a shower, except dry in the south. A couple of showers tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today. Showers around in the south; partly sunny near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today and tonight with a couple of showers.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today and tonight.

Cascades: Cloudy today with a couple of rain or snow showers.

Northern California: Cooler today; a shower in the interior mountains. Clouds breaking at the coast.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	55	38	sh	56	39	pc
Baker City	53	28	pc	50	23	c
Bend	51	30	pc	50	23	c
Brookings	53	43	pc	55	43	c
Burns	55	30	pc	52	22	c
Enterprise	51	30	pc	46	29	c
Eugene	56	42	c	59	37	t
Heppner	57	35	pc	53	31	c
Hermiston	63	38	pc	62	33	c
John Day	52	33	c	48	29	c
Klamath Falls	52	31	pc	53	25	c
La Grande	52	34	pc	48	29	c
Meacham	49	29	c	46	24	c
Medford	60	41	pc	64	41	t
Newport	52	42	sh	54	39	t
North Bend	55	45	c	57	43	t
Ontario	62	38	c	59	37	c
Pasco	64	39	pc	63	32	c
Pendleton	57	37	pc	56	33	c
Portland	56	45	sh	60	41	t
Redmond	53	29	pc	53	21	c
Salem	55	42	sh	60	39	t
Spokane	56	36	c	55	36	c
Ukiah	52	34	c	48	30	c
Vancouver	56	43	sh	59	38	t
Walla Walla	59	42	pc	59	39	t
Yakima	63	35	pc	62	32	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	82	55	s	90	59	s
Hong Kong	82	72	pc	82	73	pc
Jerusalem	60	44	s	68	53	s
London	65	51	c	62	49	sh
Mexico City	77	52	pc	76	50	pc
Moscow	58	46	pc	60	45	c
Paris	71	54	pc	65	51	sh
Rome	68	50	pc	68	51	pc
Seoul	68	44	s	68	45	s
Sydney	76	56	s	74	54	t
Tokyo	69	55	pc	65	52	c

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	WSW 10-20	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 10-20	W 7-14

### UV INDEX TODAY

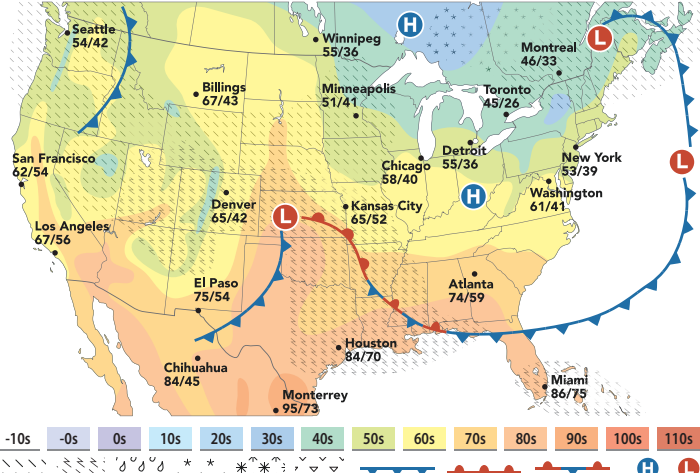
1	3	5	5	3	1
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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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: As chill holds in the Northeast and Midwest today, severe storms erupt from Texas to the southern and central Plains. Showers will dot New England and Northwest. Storms will be scattered over the Rockies.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 93° in McAllen, Texas Low 10° in Embarrass, Minn.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	66	45	pc	71	47	pc
Atlanta	74	59	pc	77	66	t
Atlantic City	50	37	pc	54	46	pc
Baltimore	58	34	pc	58	43	r
Billings	67	43	c	59	39	sh
Birmingham	76	62	c	82	65	t
Boise	58	39	sh	55	37	sh
Boston	56	38	pc	57	41	pc
Charleston, SC	74	56	pc	74	65	t
Charleston, WV	62	41	s	60	47	r
Chicago	58	40	s	45	35	r
Cleveland	51	35	pc	51	37	r
Dallas	78	63	t	86	58	t
Denver	65	42	t	67	41	sh
Detroit	55	36	pc	50	36	r
El Paso	75	54	pc	79	58	s
Fairbanks	59	38	s	61	34	pc
Fargo	55	38	c	61	35	c
Honolulu	85	72	pc	85	72	pc
Houston	84	70	t	88	66	t
Indianapolis	62	47	s	56	43	r
Jacksonville	77	63	pc	85	70	t
Kansas City	65	52	t	65	42	c
Las Vegas	77	58	pc	72	52	c
Little Rock	7					