

Icy roads make Portland commute treacherous, close down schools

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The long holiday weekend stretched to a fourth day for many Oregonians.

Light snow followed by freezing rain turned streets and sidewalks into a skating rink, prompting school closures Monday in Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro and many other Willamette Valley districts. Several colleges and universities, including the Corvallis campus of Oregon State, canceled classes on what would have been the first day back from winter break.

In Portland, busy roads were in decent shape for the morning commute, but those less traveled glistened with a coat of ice. Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation warned motorists to delay their trips if possible.

Downtown pedestrians slid to their destinations when traffic forced them to remain on the treacherous sidewalks. Those who commute by bus or light rail faced delays.

"It's quite crazy out there," ODOT spokeswoman Kimberly Dinwiddie said. "We have seen numerous spinouts and stalled vehicles as well as some crashes."

Some workers were spared the scary commute. Officials closed state offices in the Portland area and Hood River; most Portland city workers got the day off.

OHSU Hospital remained open for patients, but urged non-essential employees to stay home. Vancouver, Washington,



AP Photo/Gosia Wozniacka

A pedestrian struggles to cross an ice-covered intersection Monday in Portland.

canceled garbage pickup because of icy neighborhood streets.

The temperature in Portland was right at freezing at the start of the morning commute. Forecasters expected it to gradually rise to the high 30s and melt some of the ice to slush.

Dinwiddie said crews from the Portland metro area to Hood River have applied more than 166,000 gallons of magnesium chloride deicer since Sunday.

What they have not used is road salt, which Oregon doesn't apply because of its effect on the infrastructure and the environment.

The state, however, is in the third year of a five-year pilot project to salt Interstate 5 near the California state line and a stretch of U.S. 95 in southeast Oregon near Nevada. The goal is for drivers to travel on roads in similar condition when crossing a state line, and not suddenly

speed onto an icy patch.

"Both California and Nevada already use salt," said Dave Thompson of ODOT. "Before we started using salt on that road you could tell where the state line was. Because you'd run into packed snow — or you'd leave packed snow if you were going the other way."

Salt hasn't been considered for Portland, which rarely gets snow.

Marijuana retailers cope with falling pot prices

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — As the price of marijuana continues to drop, Washington pot businesses are struggling to keep up with the changes.

According to data from the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board, since legal marijuana entered the market in July 2014, prices have dropped from \$25 to \$30 per gram to about \$10 a gram now, *The Daily News* in Longview reports.

Prices are plummeting as new retailers plod the market. Tax changes are also lowering the wholesale price.

This year, 222 marijuana licenses will be added throughout the state, including three new licenses in Cowlitz County, three in Lewis County and one in Pacific County.

Andy Dhalai, owner of 420 Holiday in Longview, said to keep money coming in he is working to boost sales volume and expand clientele. He said as people become more comfortable with legal marijuana business should continue to be stable.

"At first people were scared to come into the shops because it was still federally illegal, but now people are a little bit more relaxed," Dhalai said. "I feel (the business) is still viable, and there's a lot more customers now."

Retailers said profits suffered slightly last summer when the state changed marijuana taxes. There used to be a 25 percent tax on producers, processors and retailers, but since the change there is now a single 37 percent tax at point of sale.

Hollie Hillman, a manager at Freedom Market in Longview, said she monitors her competitors' prices daily, sometimes dropping prices by a few dollars a gram to keep customers coming in. She said she doesn't expect prices to fall much further, as they're nearing illegal street market prices of as low as \$7 a gram.

"I don't think it can get much lower than that," she said.

Despite the low prices, Hillman said Freedom Market is selling enough volume to survive fluctuating prices.

Swinomish tribe hires dental therapist despite opposition

SPOKANE (AP) — An Indian tribe in Washington state on Monday became the first in the Lower 48 states to hire a dental therapist to provide basic oral health services.

In a move opposed by the Washington State Dental Association, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community started offering its members the services of a lower-cost dental therapist, which is the dental equivalent of a physician assistant.

"There are too few dentists in Indian Country," Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the tribe, said in a press release. "We cannot stand by any longer and

allow Native people to continue to suffer tooth decay at a rate three times the national average."

Dental therapists are licensed and can perform procedures such as cleanings, filling cavities and simple extractions. They are much cheaper to train and employ than dentists.

The dental association has fought for years to prevent dental assistants from working in the state, according to *The Seattle Times*, and they are banned in Washington.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, which advises the 43 federally recognized tribes in Washington,

Oregon and Idaho, supports the effort.

"We look forward to continued partnership turning the tide on oral health disparities in this community and throughout the Portland area," board director Joe Finkbonner said.

By age 5, three-quarters of American Indians have tooth decay, the Swinomish Tribe said. In Washington, Oregon and Idaho, federal studies show Indian children suffer tooth decay at three times the national average, the tribe said.

The tribe obtained a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to help hire the

dental therapist.

While Washington state bans dental assistants, they have been licensed to practice in Alaska for more than a decade. They are also legal in Minnesota and Maine. Attempts to license them in Washington have failed repeatedly because of opposition from dentists, the tribe said.

The dental association contends that the therapists can pose risks to a patient because they are not trained to handle serious dental problems.

The state group is following the lead of the American Dental Association, which has opposed dental therapists nationwide.

Corrections

A photo caption in the Dec. 31 edition of the *East Oregonian* ("Top 10 stories of 2015 in Eastern Oregon") provided incorrect information about Pendleton Grain Growers. The co-op intends to sell or lease its grain division to an outside company, however, facilities remain open.

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	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A bit of rain in the afternoon	Mostly cloudy and chilly	Partly sunny and chilly	Mostly cloudy; ice at night	Sun and areas of low clouds

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

33°	28°	35°	26°	34°	28°	37°	26°	34°	20°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

33°	29°	35°	29°	36°	27°	38°	28°	36°	17°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	24°	18°
Normals	40°	26°
Records	69° (2012)	-9° (2004)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.01"
Normal month to date 0.24"
Year to date 0.01"
Last year to date 0.18"
Normal year to date 0.24"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	27°	22°
Normals	40°	27°
Records	64° (1989)	-4° (1942)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.01"
Normal month to date 0.16"
Year to date 0.01"
Last year to date 0.10"
Normal year to date 0.16"

SUN AND MOON

	New	First	Full	Last
Sunrise today	7:36 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	4:25 p.m.			
Moonrise today	3:10 a.m.			
Moonset today	1:28 p.m.			

Jan 9 Jan 16 Jan 23 Jan 31

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today; breezy in the south during the afternoon. Rain tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today. A shower across the north and south; snow in central parts and near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Times of rain today. Occasional rain and drizzle tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today. A bit of snow in the north, across the south and toward the Cascades.

Cascades: A bit of snow today, accumulating 1-3 inches. Some additional snow tonight.

Northern California: Downpours today; heavy snow, accumulating 4-8 inches in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	48	41	r	48	36	c
Baker City	36	27	i	35	21	c
Bend	40	25	i	37	24	i
Brookings	50	43	r	50	40	r
Burns	33	20	sn	28	18	c
Enterprise	39	29	sn	37	19	sf
Eugene	46	35	r	45	35	r
Heppner	35	26	i	37	24	c
Hermiston	33	29	sn	35	29	c
John Day	43	30	sn	41	26	c
Klamath Falls	37	24	sn	35	21	sn
La Grande	41	30	sn	40	23	c
Meacham	39	29	sn	39	22	c
Medford	49	37	r	48	36	c
Newport	49	41	r	48	39	r
North Bend	55	43	r	53	41	r
Ontario	35	28	c	37	27	sf
Pasco	35	29	i	37	28	c
Pendleton	33	28	i	35	26	c
Portland	40	36	r	43	35	c
Redmond	36	26	i	39	24	c
Salem	44	34	r	42	33	c
Spokane	35	29	sf	35	26	i
Ukiah	39	25	sf	36	20	c
Vancouver	40	35	r	44	32	c
Walla Walla	35	31	i	37	29	c
Yakima	36	24	i	37	25	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	34	13	s	36	13	s
Hong Kong	71	64	sh	72	60	pc
Jerusalem	56	45	s	60	48	s
London	50	39	sh	46	41	c
Mexico City	67	44	pc	69	42	pc
Moscow	8	-1	sn	8	-1	sn
Paris	48	42	sh	48	42	sh
Rome	61	44	r	56	39	r
Seoul	34	21	pc	38	19	pc
Sydney	71	65	sh	70	64	sh
Tokyo	55	44	pc	52	43	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	NNE 3-6	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	NE 3-6	NE 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 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:

Showers will affect eastern Florida and part of Texas today. Snow showers are in store from northern New Mexico to eastern Oregon. Another dose of rain will arrive on the Pacific coast.

Yesterday's National Extremes:

(for the 48 contiguous states)
High 72° in Key West, Fla. Low -17° in Gunnison, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	40	30	sf	42	28	r
Atlanta	44	26	s	48	36	pc
Atlanta City	33	23	s	43	32	s
Baltimore	33	13	s	42	24	s
Billings	37	21	pc	32	18	pc
Birmingham	46	28	s	50	40	pc
Boise	40	33	c	39	29	sf
Boston	25	20	s	42	26	s
Charleston, SC	45	30	s	53	45	c
Charleston, WV	31	16	s	46	22	pc
Chicago	31	23	s	37	30	pc
Cleveland	30	19	s	37	25	pc
Dallas	48	40	pc	53	47	r
Denver	45	23	pc	42	25	pc
Detroit	30	19	s	36	26	pc
El Paso	55	41	sn	56	39	c
Fairbanks	22	6	10	1	pc	pc
Fargo	29	21	c	31	25	c
Honolulu	80	69	sh	81	68	pc
Houston	54	44	pc	63	55	r
Indianapolis	33	20	s	39	27	pc
Jacksonville	51	41	pc	57	51	sh
Kansas City	38	28	pc	40	35	i
Las Vegas	52	45	r	55	43	c
Little Rock	45	27	pc	47	38	c
Los Angeles	59	49	r	58	48	r
Louisville	38	24	s	45	30	pc
Memphis	47	29	s	50	36	pc
Miami	74	66	pc	73	62	r
Millwaukee	31	23	s	35	30	pc
Minneapolis	29	26	c	33	31	sn
Nashville	45	24	s	49	33	pc
New Orleans	55	48	pc	63	56	c
New York City	31	23	s	41	29	s
Oklahoma City	44	33	pc	47	40	sh
Omaha	35	30	s	35	32	c
Philadelphia	31	19	s	40	27	s
Phoenix	63	52	sh	61	49	r
Portland, ME	22	13	s	36	17	s
Providence	28	18	s	44	25	s
Raleigh	37	21	s	45	33	pc
Rapid City	38	12	pc	29	9	c
Reno	43	25	pc	39	27	sn
Sacramento	58	45	r	52	44	sh
St. Louis	41	28	pc	43	34	pc
Salt Lake City	40	32	sf	39	30	sn
San Diego	61	55	r	62	55	r
San Francisco	56	47	r	54	45	r
Seattle	44	36	r	47	34	c
Tucson	63	46	sh	58	44	r
Washington, DC	34	21	s	42	29	s
Wichita	42	32	pc	45	38	i

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-part