

# Portland leaders criticize state pollution response

By FEDOR ZARKHIN  
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Oregon health officials have cautioned residents within a half mile of two Portland glass factories not to eat backyard vegetables, even as authorities moved to quell public concern over elevated levels of carcinogenic metals found in the area.

The state said for the first time it would pay for urine screenings of Portland residents who couldn't afford to test for the presence of metals such as cadmium, which turned up in tree moss samples near Uroboros Glass in North Portland and Bullseye Glass in Southeast.

Meanwhile, Oregon officials announced that an initial study of cancer data for the neighborhood around Bullseye Glass found no heightened incidence of the illness.

Oregon's top environmental regulator also made his first public remarks since his agency revealed Feb. 3 that it had detected levels of airborne toxic metals that raised people's cancer risks many times above state benchmarks.

"We as an agency are not doing enough to prevent — to reduce or prevent — emissions from these kinds of industrial facilities," said Dick Pedersen, director of the Department of Environmental Quality. "We need to do more."

The director promised to start working in March on changing state rules that made the pollution possible, while U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was eyeing tighter rules for glass makers.

Yet even as state and federal officials worked to demonstrate they were working on solutions, local leaders indicated that they are close to taking matters into their own hands.

In a letter to Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday slamming Pedersen's agency, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury said they intend to explore an autonomous air pollution agency for Portland that would supplant the Department of Environmental Quality.

"We believe, strongly, that your leadership will force long overdue accountability and action" for the state environmental quality department, the letter said.

The series of pronouncements by state and federal officials came

ahead of a community meeting for North Portland neighbors of one of the glass companies, Uroboros.

The atmosphere contrasted starkly with the muted response that fueled outrage at a community meeting Feb. 9.

The first meeting drew 750 people from the area around Bullseye. Pedersen sat in the second row and did not speak.

At Thursday's gathering at Harriet Tubman Middle School, Pedersen sat with more than a dozen other environmental and health officials, this time facing the audience.

The public applauded after Pedersen acknowledged problems in regulations. But he continued to take criticism — and respond to it — on behalf of his agency in a question-and-answer session following other officials' presentations.

The Oregon Public Health Division said vegetables grown close to Bullseye Glass and Uroboros Glass could contain harmful levels of chromium, arsenic and cadmium.

The warning, coming in wintertime, carried more resonance than any immediate impact on eating. It marked a public acknowledgment of specific ways in which the health risks of toxic metal emissions could be tangible.

Some families are having urine tests done to check for harmful levels of the metals. Any test above a safe level will be sent to the Oregon Public Health Division, said Dr. Paul Cieslak, the state's director of communicable disease. He announced at the meeting that the state will pay for the tests for any families who need it, but asked that residents have the testing done by their physicians if they can.

The tests cost about \$35 to \$50 each, Cieslak said.

Regulators have known for years that Portland has high levels of the heavy metal cadmium in the air, but didn't know until 2015 what the likely sources were. They got their answer in May, when U.S. Forest Service researchers gave the department data from a research project analyzing metal concentrations in moss.

The department's own air monitoring found arsenic levels were 159 times higher than the state's safety goal in Southeast Portland and cadmium levels were 49 times higher. The department got the results Jan. 20 and told the public Feb. 3.

## HERMISTON

# Strong winds knock out power

East Oregonian

Strong wind gusts caused havoc in Hermiston on Friday afternoon, including a widespread power failure and property damage.

The windstorm, with speeds above 50 mph, knocked out power on a 115 kilovolt line transmission line serving Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Hermiston Energy Services at 2:08 p.m., temporarily disabling seven substations affecting 9,935 customers in Hermiston, Echo and Umatilla. By 2:41 p.m. Umatilla Electric Cooperative reported that power was "partially restored" and crews were continuing to work on the problem. By 4:30 p.m. spokesman Steve Myers said power was restored to all but 739 Hermiston customers, who were affected by a separate incident where a tree tore down wires near the Hermiston Butte. Those customers regained power shortly before 5 p.m.

According to the National Weather Service in Pendleton, wind speeds at the Hermiston Airport reached 53 mph at the front of the squall line. Several people reported seeing a tornado, but Mary Wister, the science and operations officer for the NWS, said none had been confirmed.

At Hermiston Cinema on Theater Lane, a wind gust blew the building's HVAC system off the roof, dropping it on the gravel parking area on the north side of the building. Hermiston Fire & Emer-



A "squall line" blew a parked semi-truck onto a pickup truck Friday afternoon at Shelco Electric in Hermiston.

gency Services and Cascade Natural Gas responded after employees reported smelling gas.

At Shelco Electric a parked semi-truck blew over on its side, landing on a pickup truck. A Shelco employee said no one was in either vehicle when it happened. Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services assisted in cleaning up diesel leaking from the truck.

At Good Shepherd Medical Center a jumble of metal siding and debris stripped from the building landed on the south side of the campus. It looked calamitous, but spokesman Nick Bejarano described

the damage as "all superficial" with no structural damage.

Guardian Angel Homes reported that they lost part of their roof to the gust, but the interior of the home remained intact and no one was injured. Their construction site for their new buildings also suffered damage, including broken windows, moderate siding damage and a destroyed fence.

Other Hermiston residents posted photos and descriptions on Facebook of damage to their property or workplace, including uprooted trees and missing shingles and gutters.

## BRIEFLY

### Oregon man killed; Muslim advocacy group fears hate crime

PORTLAND (AP) — A Muslim advocacy group is asking authorities to look into the death of an Oregon man as a possible hate crime.

The Oregonian reports that the Council on American-Islamic Relations has asked the Washington County Sheriff's Office to investigate whether the death of 68-year-old Abdul Jamil Kamawal was motivated by anti-Islamic sentiments.

Kamawal was found dead outside his family's suburban Portland home Feb. 10 without his shoes on. Because Muslims remove their shoes during prayer, Rabah Khamis, a volunteer at Kamawal's mosque, says some believe Kamawal was praying when he was killed in Tigard.

Authorities arrested Michael Troxell, who was arraigned Thursday on a count of murder.

Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Bob Ray says investigators have neither enough evidence to indicate or rule out a hate crime. He says federal authorities have asked for information on the investigation.

### Coquille pastor, wife plead guilty in false liens case

EUGENE (AP) — A Coquille pastor and his wife who were convicted of tax evasion have pleaded guilty to filing false and vindictive liens against federal officials involved in their case.

The Register-Guard reports that 72-year-old Ronald Joling on Thursday pleaded guilty to filing false retaliatory liens against District Judge Ann Aiken, Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin, Clerk of the Court Mary Moran and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Bradford. His wife Dorthea Joling pleaded guilty to filing a false lien against Aiken, who handled their tax evasion trial in 2014.

The Jolings were convicted of tax evasion and then fled to Arizona to avoid sentencing. They were later arrested by U.S. marshals and are both serving prison terms.

## 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

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2016, EO Media Group

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Single copy price:  
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

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To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini in Hermiston at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers in Pendleton at 541-966-0818.

To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstuthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements

To submit a Letter to the Editor: mail to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Clouds giving way to some sun	Spotty showers in the afternoon	Partly sunny	Sunshine mixing with some clouds	Mostly cloudy
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
50° 31°	50° 32°	50° 27°	51° 28°	49° 29°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
55° 29°	51° 29°	53° 26°	52° 27°	51° 28°

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	39°
Normals	48°	30°
Records	68° (1930)	8° (2006)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.03"
Month to date	0.81"
Normal month to date	0.78"
Year to date	2.32"
Last year to date	1.49"
Normal year to date	2.16"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	58°	40°
Normals	49°	29°
Records	66° (1995)	9° (1936)

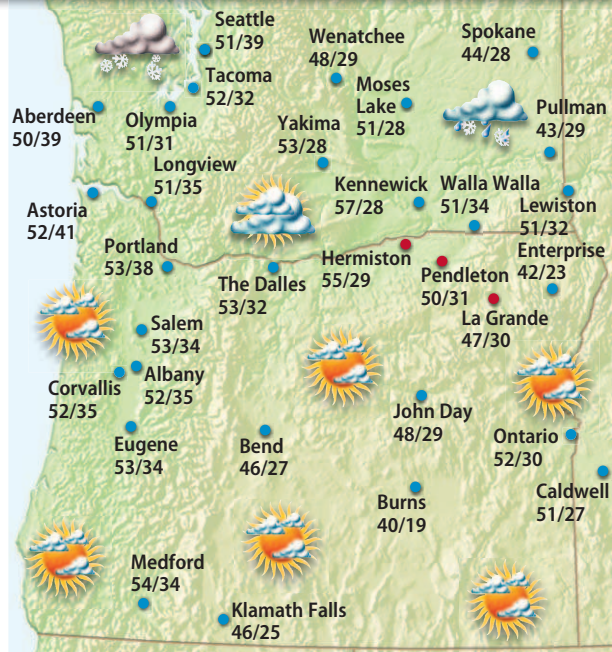
#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.04"
Month to date	0.34"
Normal month to date	0.65"
Year to date	1.44"
Last year to date	1.05"
Normal year to date	1.93"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:50 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:28 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:47 p.m.
Moonset today	5:29 a.m.

	Full	Last	New	First
	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15



### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Clouds and sun today. Mostly cloudy tonight; a shower in spots across the north.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Clouds and sun today; cloudy in the morning, then some sun across the north in the afternoon.

**Western Washington:** Variable cloudiness today; a shower in spots at the coast during the morning.

**Eastern Washington:** Clouds, then some sun north, near the Idaho border and Cascades; partly sunny in south, central and mountains.

**Cascades:** Times of clouds and sun today; a morning snow shower in spots across the north.

**Northern California:** Mostly cloudy today; warmer in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight; cold.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	52	41	c	54	41	r
Baker City	43	23	c	44	22	c
Bend	46	27	pc	50	27	r
Brookings	54	42	c	54	43	r
Burns	40	19	pc	43	19	pc
Enterprise	42	23	sf	46	27	sf
Eugene	53	34	pc	53	36	r
Heppner	48	27	pc	49	30	sh
Hermiston	55	29	pc	51	29	sh
John Day	48	29	pc	56	39	c
Klamath Falls	46	25	pc	49	27	c
La Grande	47	30	c	49	29	c
Meacham	42	28	c	46	28	c
Medford	54	34	pc	52	36	r
Newport	53	43	pc	53	42	r
North Bend	56	43	pc	55	42	r
Ontario	52	30	pc	52	31	pc
Pasco	57	29	pc	51	29	pc
Pendleton	50	31	pc	50	32	sh
Portland	53	38	c	51	39	r
Redmond	48	25	pc	52	23	r
Salem	53	34	pc	53	36	r
Spokane	44	28	pc	44	29	c
Ukiah	43	24	pc	48	28	sh
Vancouver	51	37	c	49	37	r
Walla Walla	51	34	pc	50	36	c
Yakima	53	28	pc	50	29	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	39	16	s	42	20	s
Hong Kong	65	58	c	65	61	c
Jerusalem	61	48	pc	57	44	sh
London	55	52	r	58	42	sh
Mexico City	77	42	s	79	46	s
Moscow	27	15	pc	20	17	c
Paris	55	50	sh	55	45	sh
Rome	58	41	s	60	48	s
Seoul	44	20	pc	38	19	s
Sydney	79	72	t	80	71	pc
Tokyo	55	52	r	58	42	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	WSW 4-8	NW 3-6
Pendleton	WSW 4-8	W 3-6

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 2 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

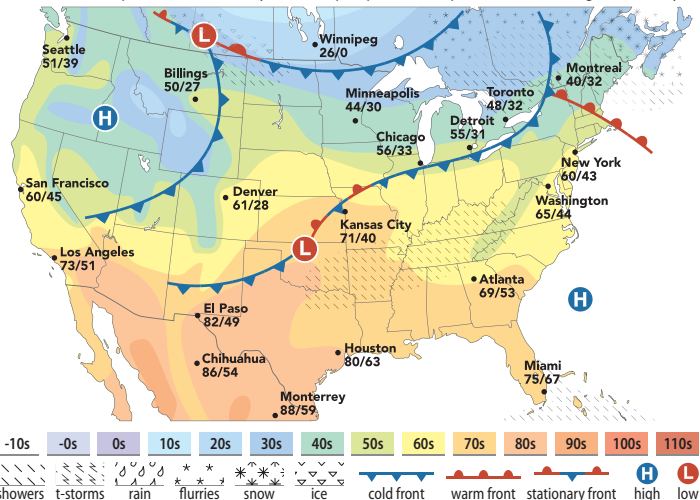
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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:** Milder air will pour into the Northeast and mid-Atlantic today with warm air also dominating the southern tier of the nation. Drier weather will return to the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 92° in McAllen, Texas Low -11° in Watertown, N.Y.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	73	40	pc	69	37	s
Atlanta	69	53	pc	69	54	c
Atlanta City	57	46	pc	57	40	c
Baltimore	64	41	pc	59	37	sh
Billings	50	27	pc	50	32	s
Birmingham	70	58	c	68	52	sh
Boise	49	32	c	52	34	pc
Boston	53	38	c	50	30	pc
Charleston, SC	72	53	pc	73	56	pc
Chicago, IL	64	49	pc	57	36	r
Chicago	56	33	s	41	27	c
Cleveland	58	32	pc	42	24	c
Dallas	78	62	c	71	50	t
Denver	61	28	pc	49	28	pc
Detroit	55	31	s	43	25	c
El Paso	82	49	pc	78	45	s
Fairbanks	13	0	pc	32	8	pc
Fargo	38	20	sf	26	22	c
Honolulu	81	69	sh	81	68	pc
Houston	80	63	c	79	61	c
Indianapolis	64	40	s	51	31	r
Jacksonville	76	50	sh	78	53	pc
Kansas City	71	40	s	58	33	