

Authorities discuss how to get people to obey warning signs

By ZACH URNESS
Statesman Journal

PACIFIC CITY — How do you get 19-year-olds to pay attention to warning signs?

That's the question, in a nutshell, that state parks officials, lawmakers and community members face as they attempt to reduce the troubling number of deaths at Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area.

Seven people have died at the popular Oregon Coast destination since 2009, including five during the past eight months. The average age of the victims is 19.

Most of the time, the victims hiked up a sand dune, disregarded fencing and signs, climbed onto a hazardous sandstone bluff and fell into the ocean.

"It's a beautiful place, it's easy to reach, and there are lots of people that climb up there," said Chris Havel, a spokesman for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "It's one of those places that draws people in and, even when they're confronted by signs and fences, they stop thinking about safety."

In response to the most recent incidents — two fatal accidents in February — state and county officials, along with Sen. Arnie Roblan, are taking part in a town hall meeting March 17 in Pacific

City to discuss how to prevent future incidents.

There have been fencing and signs warning people to stay off the bluff since 1996. The fencing was extended to 1,275 feet long following a fatal accident in 2009.

Parks officials are hoping for more input from the community on what things they could try to dissuade people from climbing to the dangerous location.

"More fencing and signs — along with devoting more staff time through park rangers — are the things we know how to do, and that's where we'll start at the meeting," Havel said. "But we want to hear from the community and listen to other suggestions."

Slick Rick Nelson, a 17-year-old football player from Sprague High School, fell backward off the cliff at Cape Kiwanda in June 2015 and died from traumatic injuries.

"We were just hanging out, having a bonfire, and some people went up to the top (of the dune)," Brendan Hassler, 16, who was present at the time of the accident, told the Statesman Journal this past June. "It was dark, and he tried to sit down and there was nothing there (to sit down on), and he was just gone."

Havel said most accidents follow a familiar pattern.

People begin at the popular parking area near the Pelican Pub and Brewery. They climb the large sandy dune — a popular hike — but then walk around or through the fencing and warning signs toward the sandstone bluff.

"In terms of what makes that specific area so dangerous, a big part is that the sandstone bluff is not strong, especially being so exposed to wind, rain and the ocean," Havel said. "It looks safe, but it really is not stable."

In February, David Lopez, 19, of Woodburn and Megan Owens, 17, of Marysville, Washington, fell from the cliffs into the ocean. Both went around the fencing and past the signs.

The problem, officials said, is trying to come up with ways to keep people — and specifically risk-taking teenagers — from going past the fencing.

The "signs and fences are not designed to stop a determined person from putting themselves at risk," Havel said.

"In our opinion, no matter what kind of fence you put up, they'll probably go around it," Tillamook County Sheriff Andy Long told the Oregonian.

Not all fatal accidents occur in the same way, however. In 2014, James Alejandro, 25, was swept out to sea and drowned after setting up a slack line — or tightrope — in a cove near a cliff.

Campaign for \$15 minimum wage ended

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The chief sponsors of a ballot initiative to raise Oregon's minimum wage to \$15 in three years have decided to end their campaign.

A survey of campaign partners for 15 indicated a majority, including unions and other organizations, are against continuing the petition, said initiative chief sponsor Jamie Partridge.

The campaign partners support a three-tier minimum wage plan approved by the Legislature last month that hikes wages over a seven-year period, he said.

The partners "considered the bill the governor signed to be a victory, though our steering committee still believes the bill is too low, too slow," Partridge said. "But we don't have the organizational backing or the voters."

A recent poll commissioned by Oregon Public Broadcasting indicated that just 28 percent of voters would support the

\$15 initiative, compared with 51 percent before the Legislature approved a more gradual minimum wage plan.

The legislative plan hikes wages to \$14.75 in the Portland area, \$12.50 in rural and coastal counties with struggling economies and \$13.50 in the rest of the state by 2022.

The first pay bump starts in July, from \$9.25 to \$9.75 statewide.

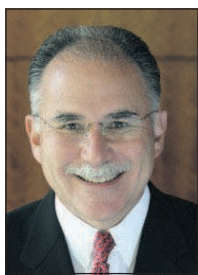
"We do take credit for the advance, the step forward by the Legislature," Partridge said. "One hundred thousand workers will benefit from the bill. Legislators were talking about \$10 an hour a couple of years. We would be nowhere near \$15 without the rallies, marches, committee hearings and hard-nose lobbying and the 40,000 signatures we gathered."

President Obama commended the Legislature and Gov. Kate Brown for approving the plan and called on Congress to follow suit. He said more than half of states now have wages higher than the federal minimum.

Businessman Alley announces bid for governor

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Lake Oswego businessman Allen Alley announced Monday he is again making a bid for the Republican nomination for governor after a failed attempt in 2010. Alley, 62, made the announcement on Twitter and in a message on his campaign website one day before the deadline to file for the May 17 primary.



Alley

"I'm running for governor because the political class in Salem has let us down," Alley said in a statement. "They've let the lobbyist foxes in the hen house. I want to reinvent state government so it serves us — not the special interests."

Specifically, the Legislature has increased spending without producing corresponding results, Alley said. The state yields a poor graduation rate and high reliance on food assistance, he said. Lawmakers also have wasted money on the failed health care exchange website, Cover Oregon, and the Interstate 5 bridge project, known as the Columbia

River Crossing, he said.

He also criticized Gov. Kate Brown's lack of action to stop a ballot measure to increase the state tax on corporations, calling it a "sales tax."

Before facing Brown, who is seeking to complete the term of Gov. John Kitzhaber, Alley will contend with Salem oncologist Bud Pierce and at least three other Republicans in the May primary.

Jim Moore, political science professor at Pacific University, said Alley emerges as an immediate front runner among the Republican candidates.

"Pierce may have money, but he's essentially been invisible to voters," Moore said. "The others are not running serious campaigns based on the amount of money they have raised and their low public profiles."

Alley, a technology investor and former CEO of Pixelworks, is a familiar face in Oregon politics. He served as deputy chief of staff in the administration of Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski. He sought the Republican nomination for governor in 2010 but lost to Chris Dudley.

In 2008, he launched a successful bid for the Republican nomination for state treasurer in the primary and lost to Democrat Ben Westlund in the general election. He also is a former chairman of the Oregon Republican Party.

"I would change the way we administer every single agency in the state and make transparent the entire budgeting process, post it to the world wide web and crowd source and make government more open and accountable," Alley said. "Nobody has the experience to even remotely do that."

In the past, Alley has largely self-funded his campaigns. This time, he said he intends to fundraise to help build an invested coalition of supporters.

Other Republicans who had filed for the primary as of Monday afternoon are Tigard engineer Bob Niemeyer, Lyons real estate broker Bruce Cuff and five-time gubernatorial candidate Bob Forthan, a state worker.

Brown's office indicates she plans to file her paperwork for reelection on Tuesday's filing deadline.

The November election will determine who will serve out the remainder of Kitzhaber's term, which expires in 2018.

Results of Fincum shooting investigation due for release

PORTLAND (AP) — Officials investigating the death of Robert Fincum are ready to release results.

Police fatally shot Fincum during a Jan. 26 traffic stop while trying to arrest the rancher and others involved in the takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge.

The FBI said Fincum was shot after reaching for a gun and the agency released aerial footage

to support that assertion. Backers of the takeover have said the shooting wasn't justified.

The Harney County district attorney asked outside agencies to handle the investigation. Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson and Malheur County District Attorney Dan Norris have scheduled a Tuesday news conference to provide the results.

Corrections

The March 5 article "Relief from the refuge" misstated the locations of Riley and Crane in relation to Burns. Riley is to the west and Crane is to the east.

An easement to access a Pilot Rock cellphone tower is on private land. The *East Oregonian* misstated that in a news brief in the March 4 edition.

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
Some sun, then clouds	Cloudy, a shower in the p.m.	Mostly cloudy, showers around	Rain and drizzle	Rain and drizzle in the p.m.

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
51°	34°	54°	48°	58°
34°	48°	38°	56°	41°
58°	40°	56°	41°	58°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
54°	31°	56°	47°	60°
31°	47°	36°	57°	37°
60°	40°	57°	37°	59°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	37°
Normals	53°	33°
Records	75° (1904)	19° (1931)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.44"
Normal month to date 0.25"
Year to date 2.81"
Last year to date 1.55"
Normal year to date 2.80"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	57°	39°
Normals	55°	32°
Records	75° (1979)	14° (1931)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.43"
Normal month to date 0.23"
Year to date 1.92"
Last year to date 1.06"
Normal year to date 2.50"

SUN AND MOON

	New	First	Full	Last
Sunrise today	6:20 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	5:52 p.m.			
Moonrise today	6:07 a.m.			
Moonset today	5:49 p.m.			

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Periods of rain today; arriving during the afternoon in the south.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today with a shower in the afternoon.
Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with occasional rain. A passing shower or two tonight.
Eastern Washington: Partly sunny today; a passing shower in the north and toward the Cascades.
Cascades: A shower today; however, a bit of snow with little or no accumulation in the south.
Northern California: A little rain at the coast today; a flurry in the interior mountains. Increasing cloudiness in central parts.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	49	40	r	55	46	r
Baker City	45	24	pc	48	39	r
Bend	43	29	c	51	41	r
Brookings	50	46	r	58	50	r
Burns	43	22	pc	46	37	r
Enterprise	45	32	pc	46	38	c
Eugene	49	41	r	57	47	r
Heppner	49	33	pc	53	44	r
Hermiston	54	31	pc	56	47	c
John Day	50	36	pc	55	49	r
Klamath Falls	44	31	pc	51	41	r
La Grande	49	29	pc	51	46	c
Meacham	46	26	pc	47	41	c
Medford	49	41	sh	60	47	r
Newport	50	46	r	56	48	r
North Bend	53	47	r	61	49	c
Ontario	53	33	pc	55	43	c
Pasco	53	30	pc	55	45	c
Pendleton	51	34	pc	54	48	c
Portland	49	42	r	53	46	r
Redmond	46	27	c	54	39	r
Salem	49	42	r	57	47	r
Spokane	46	32	pc	47	41	c
Ukiah	45	29	pc	48	42	r
Vancouver	47	41	r	53	46	r
Walla Walla	52	36	pc	56	48	c
Yakima	52	29	pc	50	38	r

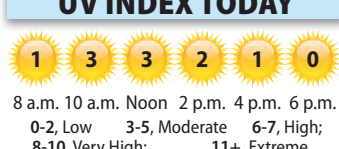
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	43	22	s	43	21	c
Hong Kong	72	65	pc	71	57	c
Jerusalem	70	57	pc	76	54	pc
London	47	42	sh	47	36	r
Mexico City	72	52	pc	63	42	sh
Moscow	39	33	c	39	31	c
Paris	46	36	pc	46	35	r
Rome	57	42	sh	53	40	sh
Seoul	42	23	pc	41	24	s
Sydney	83	72	s	88	74	s
Tokyo	65	51	pc	53	40	r

WINDS

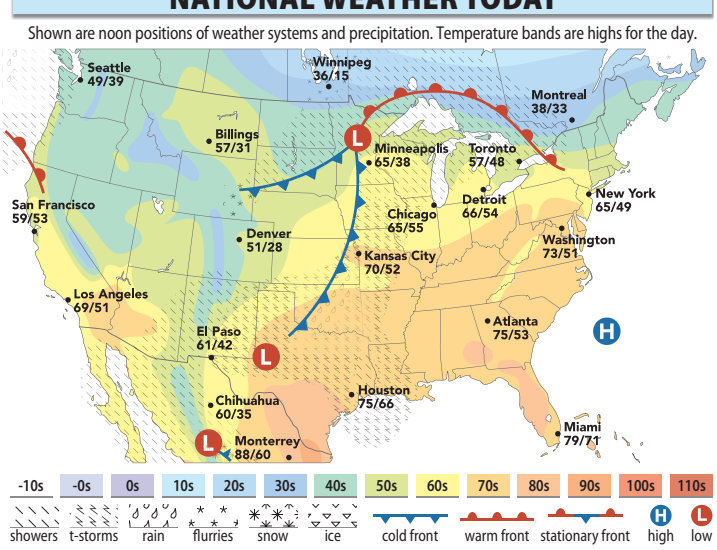
(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	WSW 4-8	E 4-8
Pendleton	W 4-8	SSE 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY



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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 92° in Zapata, Texas Low 4° in Presque Isle, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.				Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	53	33	sh	59	35	s	Louisville	73	58	c	73	60	c
Atlanta	75	53	pc	76	58	pc	Memphis	74	63	c	75	66	t
Atlanta City	63	48	s	68	51	s	Miami	79	71	pc	81	74	pc
Baltimore	71	46	pc	74	53	s	Millwaukee	61	53	c	58	39	c
Billings	57	31	c	54	32	pc	Minneapolis	65	38	sh	51	36	pc
Birmingham	77	60	pc	76	63	pc	Nashville	75	59	c	77	63	pc
Boise	52	34	c	54	46	c	New Orleans	79	67	t	80	69	c
Boston	50	40	pc	68	54	pc	New York City	65	49	pc	72	57	pc
Charleston, SC	78	52	sh	78	58	s	Oklahoma City	71	54	r	68	48	t
Chicago, WV	79	50	pc	78	53	s	Omaha	67	40	c	58	40	pc
Chicago	65	55	c	62									