



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders smiles as a bird lands on his podium when he addresses the crowd during a rally at the Moda Center in Portland Friday.

# A visit from Birdie Sanders

KRISTENA HANSEN  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Bernie Sanders, hoping to tighten his grip on the Pacific Northwest, got a rousing welcome from more than 10,000 people at a rally in progressive Portland on Friday — and an unexpected visit by a little bird.

The Vermont senator clinched delegate wins in Idaho and Utah this week over Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton — who prevailed in Arizona — and he took that momentum to Portland. Although Oregon's primary isn't until May 17 and Gov. Kate Brown gave her endorsement to Clinton this week, Portland is self-proclaimed Bernie Sanders country.

Sanders came to Oregon while he has also been campaigning in

Washington state, ahead of the neighboring state's Saturday caucuses.

In Portland, Sanders received a warm reception, even after mispronouncing the state's name — saying "Or-eh-GONE" instead of "Or-eh-gun." Oregonians are particular about getting the pronunciation right. After an awkward silence, Sanders corrected himself.

When a small bird unexpectedly joined Sanders at the podium, the crowd cheered when the candidate said: "I know it doesn't look like it, but that little bird is really a dove asking for world peace."

Sanders also pleased his fans with jabs at Clinton — scolding her Wall Street-funded campaign and her vote in favor of the Iraq war in 2002 — and with remarks about the "unmitigated disaster" it would be if GOP front-runner Donald Trump became

president.

"Obama's father was from Kenya. My father was from Poland. I find it interesting that nobody has asked me for my birth certificate," said Sanders, talking about Trump's support of the so-called "birther movement" when Obama was first elected.

Sanders is a favorite among Portland's liberal anti-establishment electorate, which showed at the rally at the Moda Center.

Tehben Dean, 28, said he gave up on caring about politics after volunteering for Obama's 2008 campaign. But Sanders reignited his interest.

"At the end of the day, he's made a huge, huge difference in this country because people are actually paying attention. They're actually realizing 'Oh, I do have a voice if I choose to go out and vote,'" Dean said.

## NORTHWEST BRIEFLY

### Woman charged with running over, killing husband in Gresham

PORTLAND (AP) — A woman has been indicted on murder and other charges in connection with the death of her husband, who she is accused of running over with a pickup truck outside a Gresham pub.

KOIN-TV reports that the indictment filed against Jennifer Lowery was filed Thursday and includes charges of murder, DUI, reckless driving and felony hit and run.

Police say Lowery had been out drinking with her husband, Mark, when the couple started fighting. They say she got into a truck, put it in reverse and then ran over the man, who died at the scene.

Court documents say Lowery has denied being the driver of the truck.

She remains held in the Multnomah County Detention Center.

Lowery's attorney, Ted Martin, has not returned requests for comment.

"That did change the landscape a bit in terms of what we set out to do," said Lynn Evans, human resources director for Redmond School District. "In the CLASS model, that was the last component districts would discuss, and certainly the most controversial and challenging."

Now that the grant money has run out, districts are no longer required to anchor pay with performance.

Chalkboard and the education research firm Education Northwest published a report last month saying they found evaluation scores weren't the best motivation for teachers.

"There are so many variables that impact student performance on a high-stakes exam," Bend-La Pine Deputy Superintendent Jay Mathisen said. "To start paying teachers for the scores on a single high-stakes exam is just not a good use of money."

### Oregon ends performance-based bonuses for teachers

BEND (AP) — Seven school districts in Oregon will no longer be required to base teachers' pay on student test scores.

A federally funded grant involving the seven districts across the state has expired, releasing the districts from a requirement that teachers and principals be paid based on student achievement, The Bulletin of Bend reported.

In 2010, Bend-La Pine, Redmond, Crook County and four other districts were chosen to split a \$24.4 million federal grant in coordination with the Chalkboard Project, a Portland-based education reform group.

The districts were working to find new models for teacher evaluations, professional development and compensation while working on Chalkboard's CLASS Project, which stands for creative leadership achieves student success.

Officials said the achievement-pay requirement was criticized for not focusing on student success.

### Stranded fishermen lifted from Columbia River jetty

WARRENTON (AP) — A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued three fishermen who were stranded on a jetty of the Columbia River as waves crashed over the area.

The men were lifted to safety by a Coast Guard crew from Astoria on Thursday.

The men, who have not been identified, had been fishing when they became stranded about a mile out on the jetty, which protrudes from the coast near Oregon's northwest tip.

The Coast Guard said seas were up to 14-foot high and there were 17-23 mph winds in the area at the time.

Coast Guard officials are warning people to stay away from the jetties due to the high waves.

### Monroe woman hit by stray bullet files \$2.5 million lawsuit

MONROE (AP) — A Monroe-area woman who was struck by two stray bullets in April 2014 has filed a lawsuit against the man who shot her while he

was target shooting.

The *Corvallis Gazette-Times* reports that Gale Fogelstrom in February filed a lawsuit in Lane County Circuit Court seeking \$2.5 million from Jeffrey Fields, of Monroe.

The lawsuit accuses Fields of acting negligently when he shot her while target shooting at Dawson Timber Services in Monroe. Fogelstrom was shot in the lower back and buttocks while walking about a half-mile from her house to pick up a newspaper.

### Salem consider 3 percent tax on marijuana sales

SALEM (AP) — Salem officials are considering whether to implement a 3

percent tax on recreational marijuana sales.

The *Statesman Journal* reports that the City Council heard the proposal last week that would put the potential sales tax on the November ballot. If approved, the law could take effect as soon as January.

Staffers estimate the city could bring in \$100,000 in revenue from the sales tax during the 2016-17.

But the city may not be able to deposit the revenue into its account with U.S. Bank, because marijuana is still illegal under federal law.

U.S. Bank representatives told city staff the bank would not accept pot tax deposits until the corporate office orders them to.

## Poll: Most Americans see drugs as big problem

Associated Press

Sharon Johnson calls herself an addict, although she's been sober for three years now. She started by smoking pot and eventually moved to crack cocaine. Her daughter has tried heroin and "I believe I'm going to pull her out of the gutter someday," Johnson laments.

Johnson has seen firsthand the ravages of drug abuse reflected in a national Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. Whether it's alcohol or illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine, a majority of Americans say it's a problem and that more needs to be done to address it.

Johnson, 56, of Lynn, Massachusetts, said she doesn't believe any drug should be legalized and believes more needs to be done to crack down on dealers. She goes to Narcotics Anonymous meetings every Thursday and sees too many of her companions there relapsing and dying from drug use. Still, she considers treatment the best option for users rather than prosecution.

"To lock someone up for using, it's not going to solve anything. They're going to rebel," Johnson, a poll respondent, told the AP in a follow-up interview. "For dealers, in my eyes, they should be locked up."

The poll found that most Americans — 62 percent — said that at least one type of substance use was a serious problem in their communities. That included alcohol, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, meth and prescription pills. Some 43 percent said they have a relative or close friend with substance abuse issues. Seven in 10 Americans believe not enough is being done to find better addiction treatment or to make treatment programs more accessible in their communities.

And, like Johnson, most prioritized punishment for drug dealers rather than cracking down on users.

It was a long road for Johnson to get clean. She bounced from couch to couch because she couldn't pay the rent. She's estranged from her sister after going on a binge and not returning a debit card her sister lent her.

"Before I got locked up, my probation officer told me, 'Sharon, you're going to end up dead,'" Johnson said. "I was in denial a long time, and one day I did a complete

**"To lock someone up for using, it's not going to solve anything."**

— Sharon Johnson, Crack cocaine addict

turnaround."

Johnson spent six months in treatment as part of Project COPE, an outpatient substance abuse treatment program. She's now on disability and hopes to complete her education. She spends time with her grandchildren. Lynn, a city of 90,000 north of Boston, has experienced one of the state's highest rates of deaths from heroin.

Johnson's story captures much of what the AP-NORC survey described: A feeling that drugs are a pervasive problem, with many seeing friends or relatives ravaged by drugs and believing that treatment options need to be improved for addicts while punishment needs to be fierce for dealers.

While 61 percent of those surveyed said they support legalizing marijuana, most said they want it limited to medical treatment or want to impose restrictions on amounts that can be purchased.

Warren Lawler Chansky is a retired criminal defense lawyer who believes that as long as alcohol is legal, so should marijuana for recreational and medicinal uses.

"In all these years of practicing (law), I've seen awful crimes, tragedies. But very few associated with marijuana," said Chansky, 57, of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

He doesn't personally smoke but he had a family member who used marijuana to keep up her appetite while she was battling cancer. "She would have died had she not been able to eat," Chansky said.

The AP-NORC Poll of 1,042 adults was conducted Feb. 11-14 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

EAST OREGONIAN Hermiston Herald

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