

Gov. Brown confirms five debates with Pierce

East Oregonian will sponsor Sept. 24 event in Bend

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown announced details Thursday for five debates she plans to participate in this fall.

Her campaign has said the sitting governor who is seeking election for the first time would agreed to at least three debates.

The five scheduled debates with GOP nominee Bud Pierce will be held in Bend, Portland, Eugene and Medford.

"I'm proud of all that we've gotten done in just a year and a half. And, there is much more work to do — for families, for our environment and for better government," Brown said in a statement Thursday.

Pierce said Thursday he's glad to see Brown has increased the number of debates she'll accept.

He noted that Brown declined to join in the traditional first debate of general election season sponsored by

the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association July 22.

"I'm glad the governor now feels ready to be in front of the people," Pierce said in a statement Thursday. "Throughout the entire campaign, I've told voters that I will attend any debate at any time and have accepted every single debate invitation I've received, since I believe debates are very important."

In addition to the debates with Brown, Pierce has accepted three other debate invitations and "is anxiously awaiting the governor's decision" on those debates, according to Pierce's campaign. Those include a debate sponsored by KDRV in Medford on Oct. 16.

Pierce also accepted an invitation for a debate by the Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group/Skanner News Group/KOIN 6 News/University of Oregon Agora Journalism Center and another debate by KATU, both of which have dates to be determined, said Stacey Kafka, Pierce's communications director.

Liz Accola Meunier, a spokeswoman for Brown's campaign, said Brown has declined the debate by Pamplin Media Group/EO Media Group/Skanner News Group/KOIN

6 News/University of Oregon Agora Journalism Center and is still considering the other two.

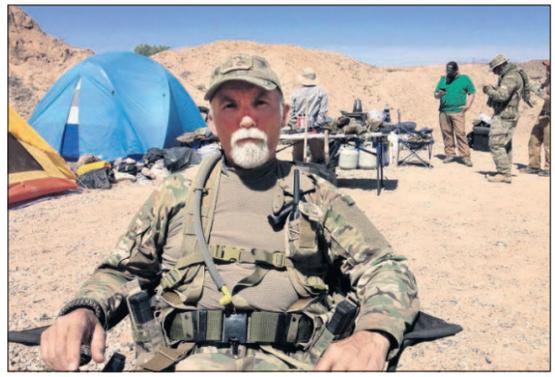
"We've received a lot of great proposals and the governor is eager to talk about a variety of issues that matter to Oregonians," Meunier said. "Unfortunately, due to scheduling constraints, decisions on this fall's debate schedule so far have been made primarily on logistical grounds."

The five confirmed debates between Brown and Pierce are:

- Sept. 24, Bend. Sponsored by: The East Oregonian, Society of Professional Journalists, Jefferson Public Radio and KTVZ-TV.
• Sept. 30, Portland. Sponsored by: Portland City Club
• Oct. 6, Eugene. Sponsored by: League of Women Voters and Oregon Public Broadcasting.
• Oct. 13, Medford. Sponsored by: KOBI-TV and KOTI-TV.
• Oct. 20, Portland. Sponsored by: KGW-TV and The Oregonian.

Brown's campaign said proposals for additional debates, forums or appearances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



AP Photo/Ken Ritter, File

In this April 2014 file photo, Jerry DeLemus, of Rochester, N.H., sits with a group of self-described militia members camping on rancher Cliven Bundy's ranch near Bunkerville, Nev.

Two in Nevada standoff case plead guilty in federal court

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Two defendants became the first to plead guilty Thursday to federal charges in an armed confrontation with U.S. officials over grazing rights near cattleman and open-range advocate Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada.

Gerald "Jerry" DeLemus and Blaine Cooper each admitted to conspiring with others who engaged in a tense gunpoint standoff with federal Bureau of Land Management agents in April 2014 near Bundy's property about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Both told U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro they weren't physically present for the standoff.

But they acknowledged interfering with the execution of federal court orders by recruiting and organizing armed gunmen to support Bundy and sons Ammon, Ryan, Mel and Dave Bundy in efforts to prevent the roundup of Bundy cattle from the Gold Butte area.

Their plea deals call for sentences of six years in federal prison, although their defense attorneys can seek leniency at sentencing Dec. 1. Each also could be fined up to \$500,000 and subject to up to three years of government supervision after prison.

Cooper, 37, from Humboldt, Arizona, also pleaded guilty to assault on a federal officer.

DeLemus, 61, of Rochester, New Hampshire, arrived in Nevada hours after the confrontation started. His second felony plea was

to an interstate extortion charge, admitting he drove cross-country with guns with an intent to display "force and aggression" to stop the roundup.

DeLemus, a former U.S. Marine, spent weeks afterward living in a tent and organizing armed patrols near the Bundy ranch outside Bunkerville.

DeLemus was also politically active at home in New Hampshire, where his wife, Susan DeLemus, is a Republican state assemblywoman. He stopped several times Thursday to confer with his attorney while entering his guilty pleas.

Prosecutors characterized DeLemus and Cooper as "mid-level organizers" and leaders of the conspiracy to prevent federal agents and contract cowboys from rounding up Bundy cattle that federal officials said were trespassing on public land.

DeLemus and Cooper became the first among 19 defendants to take plea deals in the case in Las Vegas.

Trial for some of the remaining 17 defendants is scheduled to begin Feb. 2 on charges including threatening a federal officer, carrying a firearm in a crime of violence and obstruction.

Seven defendants in the Nevada case, including Cooper and Bundy's sons Ammon and Ryan Bundy, are also among 26 people charged in Portland in connection with a 41-day occupation of the Malheur refuge earlier this year.

Oregon judge sides with state in records dispute with Oracle

SALEM (AP) — An Oregon judge has indicated that she will throw out a software company's claims that the state violated its public records law by not immediately releasing certain emails.

"Oracle contends that the public records law permits it to litigate how a public agency searches for or maintains documents and that somehow the Governor's office's efforts fall short," wrote Judge Mary Merten James on Wednesday. "Oracle is wrong, both on the law and the facts."

In an email to The

Oregonian/Oregon Live, a spokeswoman for Gov. Kate Brown called the decision a "double win."

"Governor Brown is fully vindicated, and Oracle is foiled yet again in its repeated and desperate attempts to burden and harass the state and waste public resources," wrote Kristen Grainger.

Oregon sued Oracle in 2014, arguing that the company defrauded the state by charging \$240 million for a Cover Oregon health insurance website that didn't work. The state accuses Oracle of fraud, filing false claims and racketeering, and is seeking \$6 billion in damages. That trial begins in January.

Oracle maintains that the website worked but that former Gov. John

Kitzhaber chose not to use it for political reasons. The software company also filed its own litigation, including the public records dispute, which arose over disagreement about which emails should be disclosed in the original case's discovery process.

The software company's attorney wrote an Aug. 16 letter to Judge Courtland Geyer, urging him to quickly force the state to hand over six emails involving Kitzhaber's top political consultants.

Two arrested, guns and drugs seized in overdose death

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities in Portland have arrested two men in connection with the overdose death of a man who police believe may have taken a counterfeit OxyContin pill laced with Fentanyl.

Portland Police said in a news release Thursday their

Drugs and Vice Division began investigating Aug. 16 when officers learned 24-year-old Gino Miller overdosed. He died a few days later.

Officers say he took a counterfeit pill he thought was the painkiller OxyContin. Officers believe the pills were from China.

Police arrested Antonio Benjamin, 44, last week on multiple charges including manufacturing and delivery of a counterfeit controlled substance.

Alfred Warren, 42, was arrested on charges of delivery and possession of Oxycodone.

Officers seized some 2,000 pills, four guns, approximately \$10,000 in cash, and other drug trafficking items.

Once the investigation is complete, the case will be presented for possible federal prosecution.

This was the 30th drug overdose death investigated by the Portland Police Bureau this year.

BRIEFLY

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: Sunshine, 89°-63°. SATURDAY: Mostly sunny and breezy, 92°-61°. SUNDAY: Sunny and beautiful, 87°-57°. MONDAY: Mostly sunny and pleasant, 88°-55°. TUESDAY: Sunny and beautiful, 83°-57°.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW. Yesterday 86° 51°, Normals 85° 56°, Records 104° (1996) 34° (1910).

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday. Yesterday 91° 51°, Normals 86° 55°, Records 103° (1958) 38° (2012).

SUN AND MOON Sunrise today 6:09 a.m., Sunset tonight 7:44 p.m., Moonrise today 12:32 a.m., Moonset today 3:40 p.m.

Phase of moon: New (Sep 1), First (Sep 9), Full (Sep 16), Last (Sep 23).

Regional weather map showing temperatures and forecasts for various cities like Seattle, Portland, Eugene, Bend, Medford, etc.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; patchy fog in the morning. Partly cloudy tonight. Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunshine today; pleasant. Patchy clouds tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow. Western Washington: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight; however, mostly cloudy at the coast.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Sat. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, etc.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Sat. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Beijing, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, etc.

WINDS

Table with columns: Today (in mph), Saturday, Sunday. Lists cities like Spokane, Boardman, Pendleton.

UV INDEX TODAY

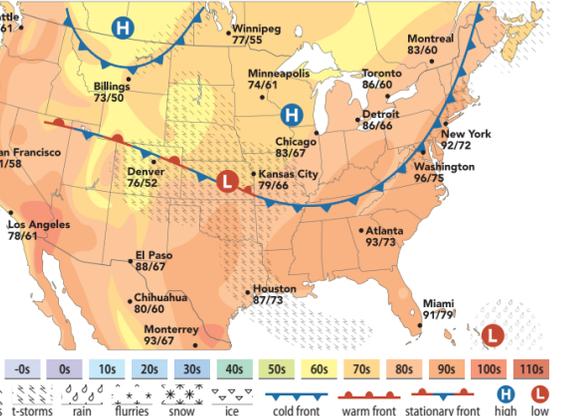
UV Index scale: 1, 3, 6, 6, 3, 1. Includes text: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



showers -t-showers rain -flurries -snow -ice -cold front -warm front -stationary front -high -low

National Summary: Locally drenching storms are forecast from the northwestern Gulf coast to the central Plains today. Some storms in the mid-Mississippi Valley can be severe. A few storms will dot the Northeast and the Southwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 107° in Imperial, Calif. Low 26° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Sat. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Albuquerque, Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, etc.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.