

Winter storm snarls traffic in Portland

PORTLAND (AP) — A rare snow storm brought Oregon's largest city to a halt on Wednesday, with thousands of vehicles barely able to move on Portland streets and on one of its main highways.

Commuters began leaving work early, hoping to beat the storm, but they quickly found themselves on streets that were clogged with traffic that was inching along on snow-slick streets.

Cars fish-tailed, spun out, and collided. Motorists, some with their kids in their cars, who had made scant progress tried to keep their patience. After more than three hours of waiting, some abandoned their vehicles and started walking. Others hoped they wouldn't run out of gas.

Kimberly Wrolstad had been stuck on Interstate 5 heading to Tigard for about 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon.

"It's frustrating," she said. "I don't know what's going on. I don't know if there are accidents. I know some of the trucks are having difficulties."

Portland does not use rock salt on its roads, for environmental reasons, and because snow is so rare. Portland was ready to put city buses on snow routes, and had taken other precautions, but the suddenness of the storm caught many off guard.

The Columbia River Gorge east of Portland was getting hit hard. Officials reported at least five vehicle crashes along a 21-mile stretch of Interstate 84,



A bicyclist is surrounded by heavy traffic as a snow storm forces commuters to leave the city early and jam roads and freeways in Portland, Wednesday. A wintry afternoon and evening is forecast for much of Oregon, with some cities expected to get a foot of snow.

which runs through the scenic gorge. The accidents were between the towns of Hood River and The Dalles.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for the gorge calling for up to 8 inches of snow and gusting winds.

An avalanche plowed onto a main highway crossing the Cascade Range in Oregon, and then a second one occurred nearby, forcing closure of the road while snowplows cleared it, the Oregon State Police said on Twitter. There were no injuries.

On the east side of the Cascades, up to 13 inches of snow were predicted for Bend.



Bus riders, bundled against the cold, wait for the next ride as a snow storm moves in on the area in Portland Wednesday.

Ex-officer says he did not intend to kill in Pasco shooting

PASCO, Wash. (AP) — One of three Pasco police officers who fired at a Mexican farmworker when he wouldn't stop throwing large rocks said he was not shooting to kill the man.

"The purpose was to stop the imminent threat," Ryan Flanagan said at a coroner's inquest on Tuesday.

In a videotaped deposition, Flanagan said he was concerned for his own safety and that of his fellow officers, along with bystanders on that early evening in February 2015.

Flanagan, who has since left the police force, was not subpoenaed to testify in the coroner's inquest into the death of Antonio Zambrano-Montes, 35, called by Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel. The inquest is underway at Columbia Basin College in Pasco.

The inquest is a fact-finding hearing in which jurors ultimately will be asked to determine what caused Zambrano-Montes' death and whether the officers used deadly force.

Excerpts of a deposition Flanagan gave almost eight weeks ago in a civil case were played for jurors on Tuesday.

Zambrano-Montes was high on methamphetamine and throwing rocks at passing motorists before he was shot.

The shooting was captured on video and sparked weeks of peaceful protests in Pasco.

Local, state and federal prosecutors have declined to bring charges against the three officers.

The jury verdict will have no effect on whether criminal charges are filed.

Officers Adam Wright and Adrian Alaniz, who remain on the force, were sent subpoenas and were expected to testify.

Their attorneys, Gregory Scott of Yakima and John Jensen of Kennewick, told Blasdel the officers will invoke their Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate themselves before the jury.

Flanagan, in his deposition, said he recalled Alaniz being hit by a rock three times.

Flanagan fired three of the first five shots at Zambrano-Montes. Wright shot twice.

Flanagan denied that Zambrano-Montes was running away from them at the time of the first volley, saying he could see the man's chest when he took aim.

"There was no other alternative," Flanagan said.

The officers then gave Zambrano-Montes the chance to disengage so the encounter could end peacefully, but Flanagan said the suspect chose to keep throwing rocks or chunks of concrete.

When he shot six more times at Zambrano-Montes in the second volley, Flanagan said he felt it was necessary because he was in immediate fear for his own life or the life and safety of the other two officers.

The officers fired a total of 17 times at Zambrano-Montes, striking him five or six times, according to an autopsy.

BRIEFLY

Mom charged in infant co-sleeping death of son

BAKER CITY (AP) — Manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide charges have been filed against a Baker City woman whose 5-week-old son died in September while the two were co-sleeping.

Court records show Beth Speelman was also charged with possession of methamphetamine. She was arraigned Tuesday and a plea hearing has been set for January 5. Speelman remains behind bars with bail set at more than \$200,000.

At least six Baker County babies have died from positional asphyxiation linked to co-sleeping since 2009, though this is the first to result in criminal charges. Generally, arrests in such cases only occur when authorities believe the parent of the child was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Judge rejects electors attempt to avoid fine

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge has rejected an effort by two Democratic presidential electors from Washington state who sought to immediately ensure they won't get fined if they ignore the results of the popular vote

here in a longshot bid to deny Donald Trump the presidency.

Bret Chiafalo and Levi Guerra took a voluntary pledge to vote for their party's nominee — Hillary Clinton — if she won Washington, which she did. But they say they might join with other so-called "Hamilton electors" from both parties to choose some other candidate when the Electoral College meets next Monday, saying Trump is unfit for office.

Washington law says electors who break their pledge can be fined up to \$1,000. A lawyer for Chiafalo and Guerra sought an emergency order to block any potential fine, saying said at a

hearing Wednesday afternoon it violates the Constitution.

Businessman guilty of fake donations

PORTLAND (AP) — A Bend businessman accused of declaring fake charitable donations in an IRS return has pleaded guilty.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that Stephen Munson on Monday pleaded guilty, acknowledging that the IRS lost more than \$2.4 million because of a false tax return in 2008. He also admitted that losses for an additional bankruptcy fraud charge against him are about \$7.5 million.

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.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
COLD	COLD	COLD	COLD	COLD
Rather cloudy and very cold	Clouds breaking, flurries	Very cold with some sun	Very cold with clouds and sun	Mostly cloudy and very cold
21° 12°	16° -3°	14° 4°	21° 9°	28° 25°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
21° 12°	16° -3°	14° 4°	21° 9°	28° 25°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
24° 14°	19° 0°	15° 6°	18° 9°	24° 21°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	22°	16°
Normals	39°	26°
Records	64° (2002)	-22° (1919)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.04"
Month to date 0.71"
Normal month to date 0.64"
Year to date 12.01"
Last year to date 9.39"
Normal year to date 12.15"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	20°	18°
Normals	39°	27°
Records	68° (2002)	-7° (1972)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.23"
Normal month to date 0.71"
Year to date 8.13"
Last year to date 6.50"
Normal year to date 9.21"

SUN AND MOON

	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise today	7:29 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	4:12 p.m.			
Moonrise today	6:37 p.m.			
Moonset today	8:50 a.m.			

Dec 20 Dec 28 Jan 5 Jan 12

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Cloudy most of the time today. Partly cloudy tonight; cold. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today. Rain in the south and upper Treasure Valley; flurries in central parts.

Western Washington: Times of clouds and sun today. Clear tonight, but partly cloudy across the south.

Eastern Washington: Cloudy today; however, clouds giving way to sun in the north and central sections.

Cascades: Mainly cloudy today with a flurry; not as cold in central parts.

Northern California: Heavy rain today; snow, accumulating 2-4 inches in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	40	27	pc	39	26	pc
Baker City	32	13	sf	18	-12	pc
Bend	29	9	c	22	-1	s
Brookings	49	34	c	47	32	s
Burns	37	11	sn	22	-4	pc
Enterprise	31	12	sf	19	-7	sn
Eugene	37	24	c	36	21	s
Heppner	24	12	c	17	-3	sf
Hermiston	24	14	c	19	0	sf
John Day	38	18	sf	25	0	sf
Klamath Falls	42	17	r	31	10	pc
La Grande	31	16	sf	21	-6	pc
Meacham	28	11	sf	18	-10	sf
Medford	48	30	r	41	23	s
Newport	41	29	pc	40	28	pc
North Bend	46	33	c	46	31	s
Ontario	37	22	r	28	1	pc
Pasco	25	10	c	19	-3	sf
Pendleton	21	12	c	16	-3	sf
Portland	35	26	pc	34	21	s
Redmond	26	6	c	21	-7	s
Salem	34	21	c	34	20	s
Spokane	21	5	c	12	-5	s
Ukiah	28	10	sf	16	-9	sf
Vancouver	35	24	pc	32	20	s
Walla Walla	22	12	c	15	2	sf
Yakima	29	14	c	25	0	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	40	16	s	43	19	pc
Hong Kong	69	56	pc	66	59	c
Jerusalem	51	43	pc	52	44	pc
London	52	45	c	52	39	c
Mexico City	71	51	pc	73	51	pc
Moscow	15	0	c	10	8	c
Paris	47	36	pc	51	35	pc
Rome	59	38	pc	56	37	s
Seoul	31	14	s	34	24	s
Sydney	68	66	sh	76	67	t
Tokyo	48	36	pc	49	38	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	E 3-6	NNE 4-8
Pendleton	N 4-8	NW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 0 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: Frigid air will extend from the Midwest to the Northeast states with heavy snow near the Great Lakes today. Snow will blanket areas from the northern Rockies to the northern Plains as rain soaks California.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 87° in Opa Locka, Fla. Low -21° in Dunkirk, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	63	41	pc	62	42	c
Atlanta	43	27	s	46	37	s
Baltimore	30	19	sf	29	23	s
Birmingham	26	13	s	30	23	s
Boise	16	2	sn	4	-22	sn
Boston	42	25	s	54	48	pc
Charlotte, SC	56	27	s	50	43	s
Chicago	21	7	pc	33	30	pc
Cleveland	8	2	s	11	19	sn
Dallas	16	7	sf	23	21	sn
Denver	49	42	c	72	58	c
Detroit	60	35	pc	51	-5	pc
El Paso	73	50	pc	74	57	pc
Fairbanks	7	4	sn	9	6	pc
Fargo	5	1	pc	9	-7	sn
Honolulu	77	63	sh	78	67	c
Houston	59	47	pc	74	69	c
Indianapolis	13	8	s	27	25	sn
Jacksonville	65	42	pc	67	55	pc
Kansas City	26	21	c	39	25	pc
Las Vegas	67	58	c	66	41	sh
Little Rock	38	24	pc	49	46	c
Los Angeles	65	55	r	61	45	sh
Louisville	24	15	pc	37	34	c
Memphis	36	25	pc	50	49	c
Miami	80	67	pc	79	71	pc
Minneapolis	5	2	s	5	25	1
Millwaukee	9	5	pc	15	5	sn
Mississippi	5	2	pc	15	5	sn
Nashville	30	19	pc	47	42	c
New Orleans	56	45	pc	69	63	pc
New						