

Pet therapy event at Oregon Capitol highlights stress of policymaking

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Cris Cloyd, chief of staff for Rep. Jeff Reardon of Portland, said she came to the Capitol for work Monday morning feeling tired and stressed.

Holding a kitten melted the tension away for a few minutes, Cloyd said.

"It has a calming effect," another staffer chimed in.

State lawmakers and their staffers lined up in the House of Representatives office suite to participate in the "Snuggle Express" Monday at the Capitol.

The Oregon Humane Society brought in puppies and kittens for legislators and staff members to snuggle during the lunch hour.

"This is just so exciting," said Naomi Zhao, an intern in Rep. Ann Lininger's office, as she waited in a line that wrapped around a wall into a hallway, to hold a puppy.

When volunteers with the humane society arrived with the animals in pet carriers, people in line gasped with delight.

"This is my favorite event of the entire session," another staff member gushed.

Rep. Janelle Bynum, a freshman lawmaker from Clackamas, organized the event after she noticed



Paris Achen/Capitol Bureau

Cris Cloyd, chief of staff for Rep. Jeff Reardon, D-Portland, snuggles "Sully," an eight-week-old kitten up for adoption at the Oregon Humane Society, during a "Snuggle Express" at the Oregon Capitol in Salem Monday. The event was meant to reduce stress in the waning days of the legislative session.

tension mounting in the waning two weeks of this year's legislative session.

Lawmakers are squabbling over new taxes and the components of a transportation package, and emotions can rise and sink with the fate of each bill in front of them.

"One of the things I noticed is when we have school children (in the House chamber), the dynamic changes," Bynum said.

She mentioned her observation to Mandi McGowan, administrative assistant in the Chief Clerk's Office, and suggested bringing babies into the Capitol to calm

legislators.

McGowan told Bynum that the Oregon Humane Society sometimes brings cats and dogs into workplaces during the stressful Christmas season and pitched the idea of doing the same at the statehouse.

"Who doesn't love puppies and kittens?" McGowan said. "A lot of people get cocktails after work to relieve stress."

Holding a puppy or kitten can provide the same soothing effect, she said.

"And hopefully, the animals find homes. Everyone benefits," she said.

Bynum said she knew people at the Capitol needed stress relief, but she was surprised there was "a lineup like a rock concert" for the event.

The Oregon Humane Society provided the event for free at the Capitol. The program costs businesses a \$1,000 donation fee during the Christmas season, but off-season the organization will provide the service without the fee in certain cases, said David Lytle, a spokesman for the humane society. Participants were asked to give a donation to help homeless animals during Monday's event. A final tally of how much was raised for the organization was unavailable Monday afternoon, Lytle said.

Many animals find their new homes during the Snuggle Express, he said. The humane society maintains a web site with photos of all of the pets available for adoption.

Buzz about the event spread to the Senate wing of the Capitol, where at least one senator and his staff member expressed jealousy that the Senate wasn't invited, Bynum said.

"It's all in good fun," Bynum said. "We have some big decisions to make before the end of the session."

BRIEFLY

Alaska Air offers charter flight for solar eclipse viewing

PORTLAND (AP) — Alaska Airlines said Monday it will charter a flight over the Pacific Ocean this Aug. 21 so select passengers can view the astronomical event from the sky.

The flight will take off at 7:30 a.m. Pacific from Portland, Oregon and is by invitation-only for about 50 astronomers and serious eclipse chasers. The airline is also holding an online contest starting July 21 for the general public with a prize of two seats on the flight.

The total solar eclipse is the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse to hit the continental U.S. in 99 years.

A total eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth, blocking the sun's light.

The path of totality -- the area of complete darkness where the moon's shadow completely obscures the sun -- begins in the U.S. on the Oregon coast before traveling east across the U.S.

The idea behind the flight began last year, when a group of avid eclipse chasers booked tickets on an Anchorage-to-Honolulu flight during an eclipse that could be seen over the Pacific Ocean. They successfully lobbied Alaska Airlines to adjust the flight path so they could see the event from the air, said Halley Knigge, an airline spokeswoman.

The carrier is now reaching out to those same people for this flight, as well as other astronomers, she said.

The trip in the Boeing



AP file photo

An Alaska Airlines plane comes in for a landing at Portland International Airport in Portland in this 2009 file photo.

737 will take between four and five hours and is limited to about 50 people to make sure everyone gets a good view, Knigge said.

Two killed in 5-car pileup

BEND (AP) — Two people died in a five-car accident on Highway 20 near Black Butte Ranch in central Oregon over the weekend.

Oregon State Police said Monday that the drivers of two of the cars were friends and had spent time together shortly before Sunday's accident.

OSP says both men may have been impaired.

One of them, 28-year-old Ethan G. Moreschi of Bend, died at the scene after crossing the center line and striking a car driven by 80-year-old Katherine L. Sales of Eugene, who also died.

A motor home behind Sales swerved to avoid the crash and hit the car driven by Moreschi's friend.

The friend, 28-year-old Timothy R. Thompson of Newberg, was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries.

Standoff defendant gets home detention

PORTLAND (AP) — A military veteran who performed guard duty during the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon was sentenced Monday to six months of home detention.

Geoff Stanek, 27, of Lafayette, Oregon, pleaded guilty to conspiracy in June 2016, three months before the high-profile trial in which occupation leader Ammon Bundy and six others were found not guilty. Stanek's early acceptance of responsibility was one reason federal prosecutor Craig Gabriel recommended a sentence that did not include prison time.

Stanek was among the more than two dozen men and women who answered Bundy's January 2016 call to occupy the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in a protest against federal control of Western lands and the imprisonment of two ranchers convicted of setting fires.

"You're free to think what you choose, but your conduct crossed the line," U.S. District Judge Anna Brown said Monday.

Another occupier, Eric Lee Flores, was scheduled to be sentenced Monday, but got mixed up on the date and never arrived from his home in Tulalip, Washington.

Brown said the hearing will be rescheduled.

Stanek arrived at the refuge Jan. 7 after learning about the occupation through Facebook. He stayed until Jan. 26, the day Bundy and other occupation leaders were arrested in a traffic stop that included the fatal shooting by police of protest spokesman Robert "LaVoy" Finicum.

Though Gabriel described Stanek as one of the least culpable defendants, the judge noted that he arrived at the bird sanctuary with an AR-15, body armor and medic supplies.

"You were prepared for a

bloodbath," she said.

Stanek declined to make a statement when given a chance.

In response to questions from the judge, Stanek vowed to provide for his young daughter and not violate any conditions during a two-year term of probation. One requirement prohibits him going on federal land without permission from his probation officer.

A total of 14 people pleaded guilty to occupation-related charges and another four were convicted by a jury. Judge Brown plans a fall hearing to decide how to divvy up restitution.

Corrections

An inaccurate age was listed for gunshot victim Adalberto Flores in the article "Mother's Day shooter sentenced," (3A, June 24). He was 20 at the time of the 2016 shooting.

The groundbreaking for the Umatilla County Fire District 1 training tower is Thursday, June 29. Incorrect information appeared in "Fire tower groundbreaking Thursday" (3A, June 23).

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
Mostly sunny and cooler	Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Delightful with clouds and sun	Sunny	Mostly sunny and nice
83° 55°	82° 55°	87° 57°	90° 62°	88° 61°

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
83° 55° 82° 55° 87° 57° 90° 62° 88° 61°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
89° 58° 87° 58° 92° 60° 94° 65° 93° 63°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	97°	64°
Normals	83°	54°
Records	104° (2015)	39° (1976)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.05"
Normal month to date	1.00"
Year to date	10.20"
Last year to date	6.47"
Normal year to date	7.51"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	101°	67°
Normals	83°	55°
Records	105° (2015)	39° (2007)

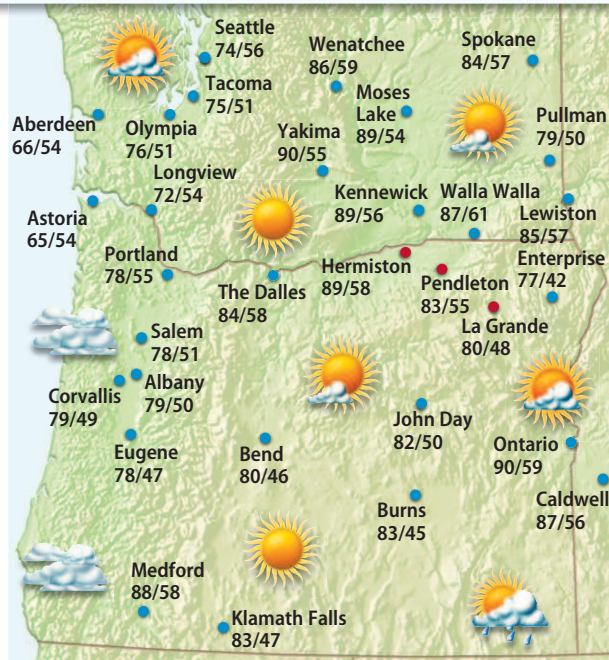
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.28"
Normal month to date	0.54"
Year to date	6.59"
Last year to date	4.64"
Normal year to date	5.65"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:08 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:49 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:28 a.m.
Moonset today	11:37 p.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
	June 30	July 8	July 16	July 23



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Low clouds today, except low clouds followed by some sun in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny today; cooler across the north and in the upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Low clouds followed by some sun today, except low clouds at the coast.

Eastern Washington: Partly sunny today, but sunnier toward the Cascades. Clear tonight.

Cascades: Mostly sunny today. A passing shower in the south; pleasant in central parts.

Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	65	54	c	65	53	c
Baker City	79	44	s	78	42	s
Bend	80	46	s	79	46	s
Brookings	63	51	pc	66	52	pc
Burns	83	45	s	81	40	s
Enterprise	77	42	s	76	44	s
Eugene	78	47	pc	78	49	pc
Heppner	82	51	s	80	50	s
Hermiston	89	58	s	87	58	s
John Day	82	50	s	79	50	s
Klamath Falls	83	47	s	81	44	s
La Grande	80	48	s	78	48	s
Meacham	77	44	s	76	45	s
Medford	88	58	pc	89	55	s
Newport	61	50	c	61	50	c
North Bend	64	53	c	64	52	c
Ontario	90	59	pc	87	56	r
Pasco	89	54	s	89	55	s
Pendleton	83	55	s	82	55	s
Portland	78	55	pc	76	55	pc
Redmond	83	41	s	83	42	s
Salem	78	51	pc	77	53	pc
Spokane	84	57	pc	81	58	s
Ukiah	77	42	s	77	43	s
Vancouver	76	53	pc	74	53	pc
Walla Walla	87	61	s	86	61	s
Yakima	90	55	s	88	54	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	94	71	pc	95	73	s
Hong Kong	89	83	t	88	82	sh
Jerusalem	90	68	s	89	66	s
London	69	59	r	68	56	r
Mexico City	71	58	t	72	58	t
Moscow	69	52	pc	68	51	pc
Paris	80	61	t	75	56	t
Rome	88	71	s	86	70	pc
Seoul	83	69	t	83	68	pc
Sydney	63	50	c	62	49	pc
Tokyo	77	71	c	75	72	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	W 7-14	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 7-14	WSW 8-16

UV INDEX TODAY

2	5	7	7	5	2
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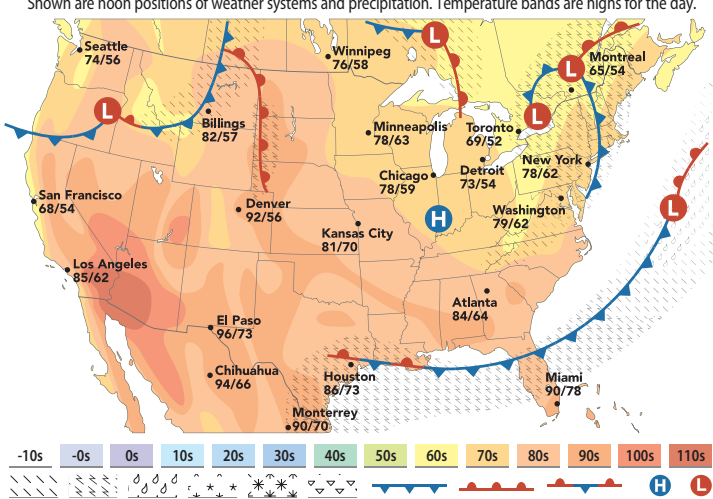
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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

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The driver and NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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



National Summary: As cool air stays in the East, hot air will linger in the Southwest today. Showers and storms will dot the Northeast as downpours drench the Gulf Coast. Severe storms will erupt over much of the Plains.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 116° in Needles, Calif. Low 32° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today					
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