

Illinois group threatens legal action over Oregon union dues

PORTLAND (AP) — A Chicago-based conservative group is threatening to sue Oregon government officials if they don't stop collecting union dues and agency fees from workers' paychecks, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Liberty Justice Center has sent cease-and-desist letters to state officials, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported.

The nonprofit helped represent an Illinois child support worker in his landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, resulting in a June ruling that public employees can't be required to pay union dues or fees if they opt out of membership.

The decision ended a provision in Oregon and 21 other states that required public employees to pay what's known as "fair share" or "agency" fees as a condition of their employment, even if they opted out of union membership. The fees are supposed to cover bargaining and contract administration, including handling grievances.

Lawyers from the Liberty Justice Center say the court's



In this May 20, 2011, file photo, Deb Ueltzen, center, shouts during a union rally with thousands of state workers at the Oregon Capitol, in Salem, Ore.

decision means that public employers must get written consent from employees before collecting all union dues. The group argues in the letter that the employees' consent was based on a false choice: become a union member and pay dues or pay an agency fee as a non-member.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum says the high court's ruling only applies to agency fees or union dues from non-members.

The interpretation has huge implications for Oregon's unions.

They collected nearly \$21 million in dues from 25,000

state employees who are union members, and another \$5 million in fair share fees from 6,000 state workers who opted out of union membership, according to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

The state has stopped deducting fair share fees from non-members' paychecks.

Feds: 'Vast' Oregon pot trafficking schemes prompt 6 arrests

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Federal prosecutors in Oregon on Wednesday announced charges against six people involving two "vast" interstate trafficking operations that delivered marijuana to Texas, Virginia and Florida.

Proceeds from the black market sales returned to Oregon as cash stuffed in airplane luggage or through the U.S. mail, said U.S. Attorney for Oregon Billy J. Williams.

In one case, the marijuana was grown in Portland and distributed in Houston, Texas and Virginia. In the second case, the marijuana was grown in Hood River and sent to Florida, according to court documents.

All six defendants are charged with conspiring to manufacture, possess and distribute marijuana — which remains illegal under federal law. Other charges include money laundering, kidnapping

and using a firearm to commit a drug trafficking crime and interfere with commerce.

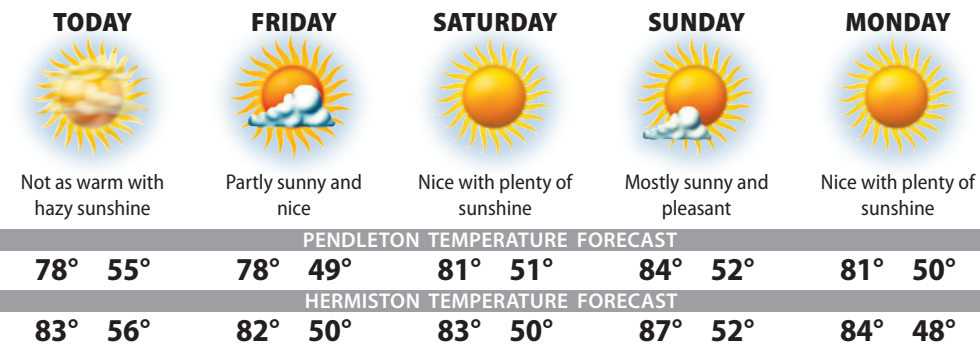
"These cases provide clear evidence of what I have repeatedly raised concerns over: Oregon's marijuana industry is attracting organized criminal networks looking to capitalize on the state's relaxed regulatory environment," Williams said in a statement.

Oregon law allows the manufacture and sale of marijuana within state boundaries for growers, processors and retailers who are permitted by the state.

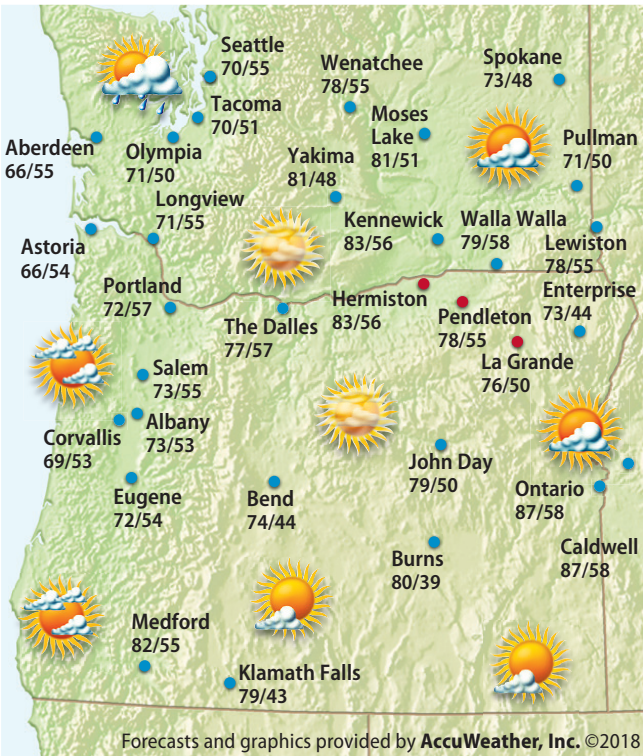
Williams has repeatedly called on Oregon regulators to tighten their monitoring of the marijuana industry to limit diversion out-of-state.

Oregon's adult-use market has struggled for months with too much marijuana, an outcome fueled by state regulations that didn't limit the number of growers and allowed each grower to have multiple licenses.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



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



ALMANAC

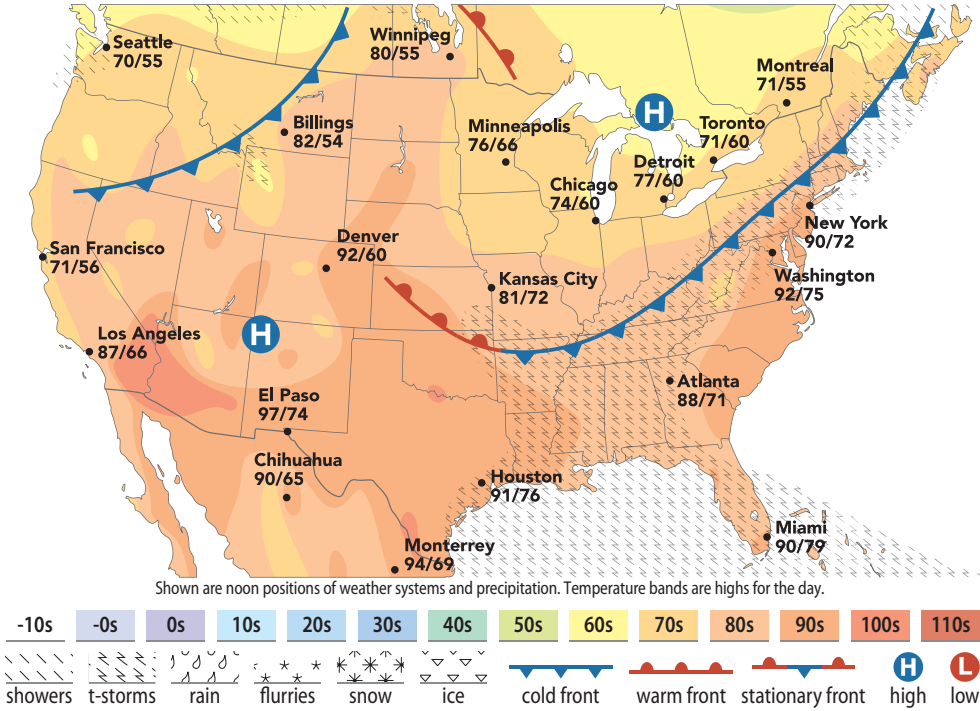
TEMP.		HIGH	LOW
Yesterday		86°	51°
Normals		84°	55°
Records		106° (1915)	36° (1927)
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.		0.00"	
Month to date		0.03"	
Normal month to date		0.40"	
Year to date		6.52"	
Last year to date		11.37"	
Normal year to date		8.35"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.		HIGH	LOW
Yesterday		91°	45°
Normals		85°	54°
Records		102° (1972)	36° (1937)
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.		0.00"	
Month to date		0.05"	
Normal month to date		0.19"	
Year to date		5.15"	
Last year to date		6.65"	
Normal year to date		6.11"	
WINDS (in mph)			
Today		Fri.	
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 6-12	
Pendleton	WSW 8-16	WSW 7-14	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today		6:14 a.m.	
Sunset tonight		7:37 p.m.	
Moonrise today		9:54 p.m.	
Moonset today		10:22 a.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 107° in Thermal, Calif. Low 24° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Wolf pups photographed in Cascade Mountains

MOUNT HOOD (AP) — Two wolf pups have been seen near Mount Hood, marking the first known reproduction by wolves in the northern part of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon since wolves began returning to the state in the past decade.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said Wednesday that a remote camera on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation captured images of two pups on Aug. 10.

Wolves in western Oregon are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are monitoring the wolves.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that as of 2017 Oregon was home to at least 124 wolves, mostly concentrated in the northeast corner of the state.

Pro-choice group donates \$500,000 to Brown campaign

PORTLAND (AP) — Gov. Kate Brown's re-election campaign has received a \$500,000 contribution from a national political group.

Brown's most recent campaign filing disclosures shows the contribution from EMILY's List as her largest contribution to date.

The political action committee backs female Democratic candidates who support abortion rights.

The EMILY's List website shows Brown is one of nine gubernatorial candidates the PAC is supporting this election cycle, calling her "a progressive leader with the experience to move Oregon forward."

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports the influx comes nearly a year after her Republican opponent Knute Buehler received a donation in that amount from Nike co-founder Phil Knight.

As of the most recent reporting, Brown has nearly \$4 million more on hand than Buehler, who spent money to fend off challengers during the May primary.

Dufur track coach sentenced to prison for sex abuse

DUFUR (AP) — A man who worked as a track coach, custodian and bus driver at a Wasco County school has been sentenced to prison on charges he sexually abused two female students.

The Dalles Chronicle reports that 27-year-old Ty Lee Wyman had worked at the Dufur School for about a year and was arrested May 1.

Wyman must report to prison on Jan. 2

after striking a plea deal with prosecutors.

Court documents show Wyman was accused of giving alcohol to at least one student and having sex with her.

Dufur School is a public school with 280 students in grades K-12 in rural north-central Oregon.

Once released from prison, Wyman must register as a sex offender.

Schools delayed as teachers picket in Washington state

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — The school year has been delayed for more than 75,000 students in southwest Washington this week as teachers and districts failed to reach contract agreements over teacher salaries.

Teachers in at least seven school districts were picketing Wednesday. Two districts in Vancouver are among the largest in the state.

Meanwhile, teachers in Seattle and other cities have authorized strikes if they don't reach salary agreements by the time school starts either this week or next.

Teachers in nearly all 295 school districts in the state opened contract negotiations after the Legislature in March approved an additional \$1 billion for educator salaries for the upcoming school year. The state had been under a court order to fully fund K-12 school.

Teachers in Longview, Battle Ground and Ridgefield are among those on strike.

Second Hanford radioactive tunnel collapse expected

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Officials say the possible collapse of a second Hanford tunnel storing radioactive waste is both more likely than thought a year ago and the effects potentially more severe.

The Tri-City Herald reported Tuesday that the risk of failure, based on Department of Energy nuclear safety standards, has increased from "unlikely" to "anticipated." The potential severity has been increased from "low" to "moderate."

Chief operating officer of Hanford contractor CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. Dan Wood said the severity of the possible collapse is still not ranked as "high," but it would be a significant event with the potential for the airborne release of radioactive particles.

After the partial collapse in May 2017 of the older of two tunnels storing radioactive waste at Hanford's PUREX processing plant, an initial structural analysis of the other tunnel was conducted.

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