

Grand jury: PSU officers justified in shooting

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An Oregon grand jury on Thursday cleared two Portland State University campus safety officers in the fatal shooting of a legally armed black man outside a bar in a case that has focused attention on whether campus officers should be carrying weapons.

The grand jury deliberated for two days before finding that PSU officers James Dewey and Shawn McKenzie should not face criminal charges in the June 29 incident, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office said.

The death of Jason Washington, a 45-year-old Navy veteran, father of three and grandfather, prompted protests against PSU's 2014

decision to arm its campus security officers despite concerns raised by students.

Washington's widow, Michelle Washington, said in a statement that her family was disappointed and would consult their private attorney on possible next steps.

"We want those responsible for the death of my husband to be held accountable," she said. "We will always remember and love Jason and know he was needlessly killed while attempting to keep the peace."

Portland State University's president said he had hired two independent firms, one to examine the school's policy of arming campus police and another to conduct its own investigation into the shooting.



Shane Dixon/The Oregonian via AP, File

In this June 29, 2018, file photo, police stand outside across from The Cheerful Tortoise bar at the scene of an earlier shooting in Portland. An Oregon grand jury on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, cleared two Portland State University campus safety officers in the fatal shooting of a black man outside a bar.

"Mr. Washington's death has deeply shaken all those involved as well as the greater campus com-

munity, and we are determined to learn from it," said PSU President Rahmat Shoureshi.

"My hope is that our actions following this tragedy will help make our campus and community a safer place for years to come."

Shoureshi invited students and community members to attend an Oct. 4 trustees meeting, and the PSU Student Union said its members would be there in force. They are also planning a rally later this month.

"It is evident to us he was a victim of racial profiling from PSU police. This is why we do not, and have never wanted armed police officers on PSU's campus," the student union posted on their Twitter account.

Cellphone video shot by a witness shows Wash-

ington repeatedly trying to restrain a friend as a group of other men follow them down a sidewalk. It seems as if Washington is about to succeed in getting his friend inside and away from a fight when the friend breaks away and swings at someone and is knocked to the ground.

Washington enters the fray and is also knocked down. As he falls, a black object can be seen in his hip pocket. The camera jerks away from the action shortly after the fall and doesn't show the shooting, but someone can be heard shouting, "Gun!"

Witness Keyaira Smith, who shot the video, told several news outlets at the time that the object was a gun. Washington was shot as he was trying to retrieve it from the sidewalk, she has said.

Wanted: New Oregon Supreme Court justice

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Kate Brown announced she's accepting applications to fill a pending vacancy on the Oregon Supreme Court, created by the retirement of

Justice Rives Kistler on Dec. 31.

Brown said Thursday she's looking for applicants with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Earlier this year, the court gained its first black judge when Brown appointed Adrienne Nelson. In 2015, an Asian-American woman,

Lynn Nakamoto, became the first minority woman on the bench.

Kistler, 69, expressed gratitude for the privilege of working with appellate courts and lawyers.

Chief Justice Martha Walters called him a brilliant thinker who cares deeply about the law and people.

When Kistler was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2003, he became the first openly-LGBT state Supreme Court justice in America.

Final spending bill includes increase for Hanford

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — Congress is working on a final spending bill for next year that puts the Hanford Nuclear Reservation budget at \$2.4 billion, well above the amount proposed by the Trump administration.

The *Tri-City Herald* reports the proposed Hanford cleanup budget is about \$15 million higher than the current fiscal year's spending level, and \$342 million more than proposed by the Trump administration. The administration had proposed a \$327 million cut.

The proposed new Hanford spending plan includes \$730 million for work on the vitrification plant, which is intended to convert radioactive waste into glass-like logs for burial.

Hanford for decades made plutonium for nuclear weapons, and now is engaged in cleaning up a massive volume of radioactive waste.

Man arrested on child porn charges

MILWAUKIE (AP) — A Milwaukie man has been arrested on federal charges of possession and transportation of child pornography after authorities say they found more than 9,000 videos and 20,000 images on his phone.

Federal prosecutors say 24-year-old Nicholas James Stacy has also uploaded more than 90 child pornography files to his e-mail account.

Investigators say Stacy may have impersonated a police officer or other type of law enforcement officer multiple times to lure in children for sexual exploitation.

His alleged activities were first discovered by Google and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Stacy's federal public defender did not immediately return an e-mail Thursday.

Court records show he waived his right to a preliminary hearing at a hearing Wednesday.

He remains in custody pending an Oct. 10 arraignment date.

Court: Attempt to silence officer violated First Amendment

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal appeals court panel has found that firing a Springfield police officer who refused to sign an agreement prohibiting her from saying or writing anything negative about the department or the city violated her First Amendment right to free speech.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Wednesday that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sent the case back to a federal judge in Eugene to determine whether the city of Springfield is liable for the police chief's decision to restrict Officer Thelma Barone.

The chief offered Barone a "last-chance agreement" after a suspension: She could return only if she didn't criticize police, the city or its staff in writing or in speech.

The appellate panel said the restriction was too broad.

Lawyers for Springfield argued the speech restriction is necessary to maintain "the effective and efficient operation of the police department" and safeguard the public's opinion of police.

Oregon Air Guard crews assigned to Florence relief

PORTLAND (AP) — Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron are on their way to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to help with Hurricane Florence relief.

About a dozen squadron members left Portland on Wednesday.

They are headed to the disaster zone from Dover after the hurricane passes through.

Squadron members are prepared to conduct rescue operations as well as re-establish air fields that may be damaged in the hurricane.

The team also is bringing along inflatable Zodiac boats, all-terrain vehicles, and mini-bikes.

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's attorney general has sued the pharmaceutical company that makes OxyContin, saying it misrepre-

sented the risks and benefits of the drug and lied to a state regulatory agency to maximize profits.

A spokesman at Purdue Pharma, targeted by Thursday's lawsuit in Multnomah Circuit Court, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum said that over the last decade, Purdue has engaged in racketeering and misleading activity.

Rosenblum said Oregon sued Purdue in 2007 for deceptively marketing OxyContin, but the Connecticut-based company has continued to market the highly addictive pain pill to Oregon doctors and mislead health care providers and the Oregon Pharmacy Board.

Purdue and other drug-makers are facing lawsuits across the country, claiming they helped spark opioid addiction and an overdose crisis.

School district considers legal action over strike

SEATTLE (AP) — The Tacoma school district says it may sue its teachers union if teachers continue their strike over contract negotiations.

The *Seattle Times* reports the teachers strike has kept thousands of children out of classes for almost a week as the Tacoma Education Association continues pressing Tacoma Public Schools for an increase in salaries.

Strikes by public employees are illegal in Washington.

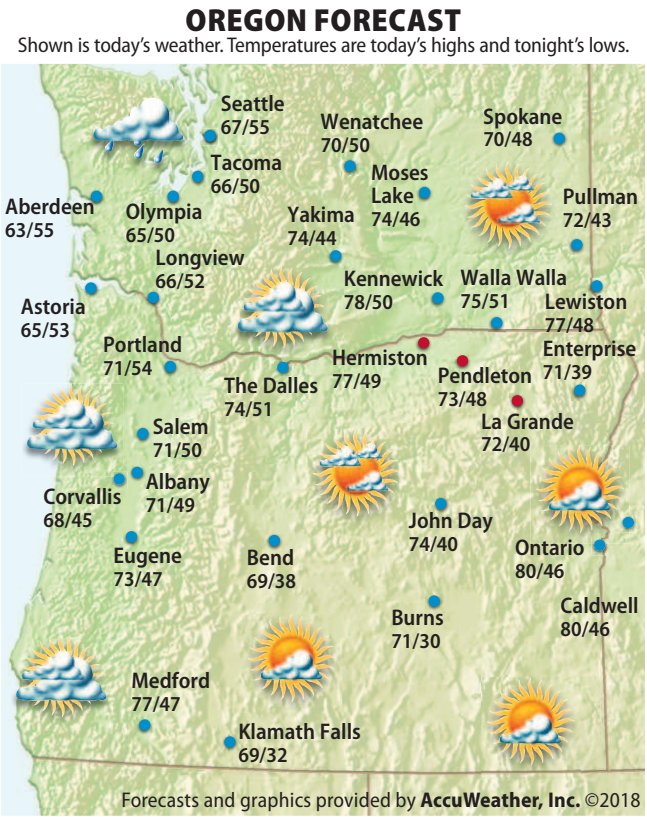
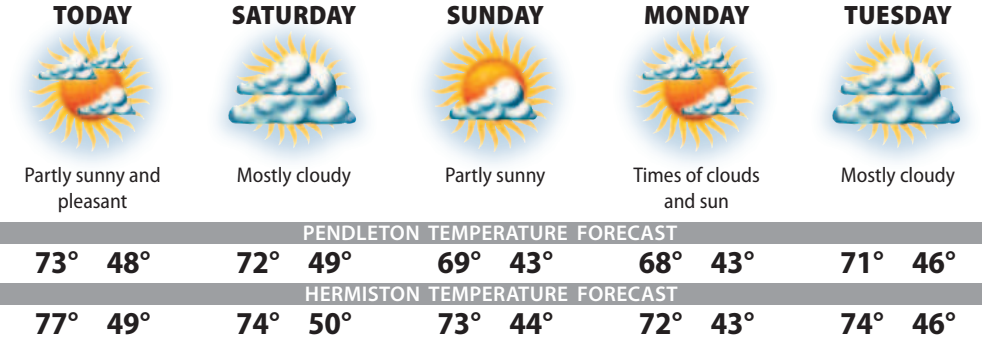
Dan Voelpel, a spokesman for Tacoma Public Schools, said in a Wednesday phone interview that taking legal action is "certainly an option that's under consideration." He says the district is considering all options that could end the strike as quickly as possible.

Angel Morton, the president of Tacoma's teachers union, says teachers will resume work when the district agrees to pass money from a supplement state budget to educators.

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.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

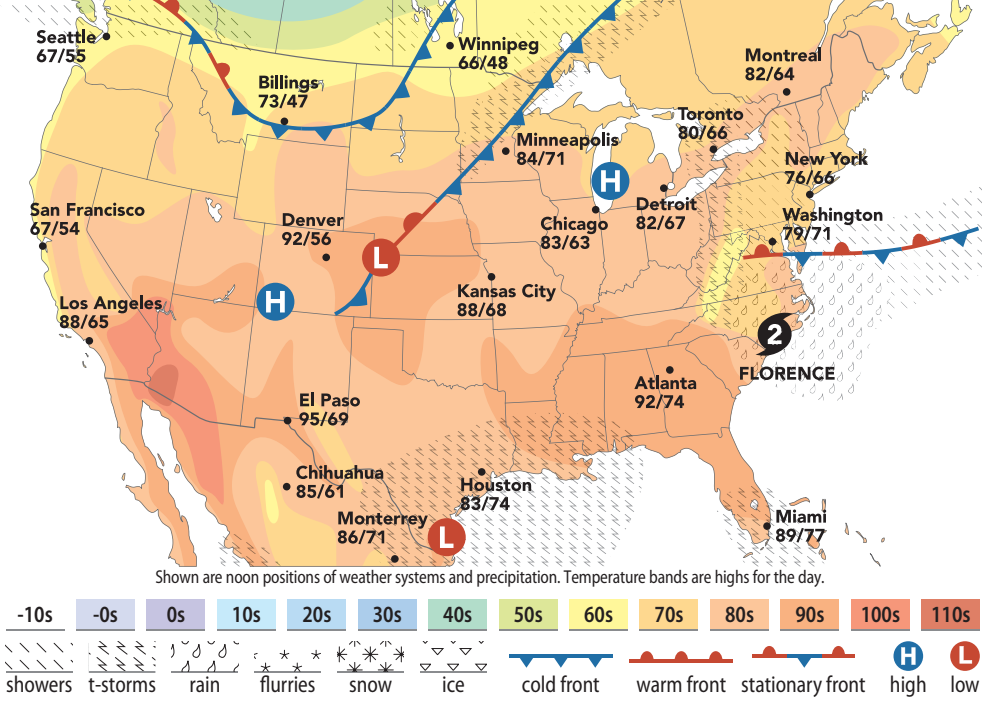


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

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Business Office Manager: Janna Heimgartner
541-966-0822 • jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com