

BOARDMAN

Te Velde loses Lost Valley Farm

By GEORGE PLAVERN
EO Media Group



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Lost Valley Dairy outside Boardman, Ore., is one of three dairies owned by Greg te Velde that will be managed by a trustee.

A bankruptcy judge in California will appoint a trustee to operate Lost Valley Farm, Oregon's second-largest dairy, after finding owner Greg te Velde is "unwilling, or unable to comply with his duties as a fiduciary."

The ruling, handed down Sept. 12, states te Velde has continued his long-standing pattern of drug use and gambling while owing creditors \$160 million — including \$68 million to Rabobank, a Netherlands-based agricultural lender.

In addition to Lost Valley Farm near Boardman, te Velde will lose control of his two dairies in California — GJ te Velde Ranch in Tipton, and Pacific Rim Dairy in Corcoran — with a combined total of 53,382 cattle.

When reached Friday, te Velde said he had no comment on the ruling.

The U.S. Department of Justice asked Judge Frederick Clement to appoint a trustee for all three of te Velde's dairies, citing his alleged drug use, gambling and lack of financial transparency. Since filing for bankruptcy, te Velde has continued to

use methamphetamine two or three times per week and has gambled away \$2,000 to \$7,000 per month, according to court documents.

Te Velde has blamed his financial problems not on his lifestyle, but rather on market forces outside his control, such as low milk prices and construction cost overruns at Lost Valley. But creditors in court papers say they believe that "darker forces have caused his insolvency, or if not the cause, preclude te Velde from effectively resolving his debt problems."

Te Velde also does not abide by the orders of the bankruptcy court, Clement stated in his ruling.

For example, after declaring bankruptcy, te Velde borrowed \$205,000 from Pasco Farms without court approval. Between May 8 and June 2, te Velde was authorized to personally withdraw \$10,000, but instead took \$38,420, explaining he was "unaccustomed to personal bank accounts, took the cash he needed, and authorized his bookkeeper to pay his personal bills from the dairy accounts."

Lost Valley Farm opened in April 2017 after receiving a wastewater management permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Agriculture, which jointly

manage the state's confined animal feeding operation, or CAFO, program.

Almost immediately, the dairy began racking up permit violations, including 32 infractions related to waste storage between June 28, 2017 and May 9, 2018. The state attempted to revoke the permit in June, though a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge ruled in August that Lost Valley Farm could stay in operation while te Velde and regulators worked out an agreement to get the dairy back in compliance.

Lost Valley is within the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area, established by DEQ in 1990 for elevated levels of groundwater nitrates. A spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Agriculture said regulators continue to inspect the facility routinely, and have conducted 11 inspections since June 1.

Meanwhile, te Velde also filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April after Rabobank sought to sell the Lost Valley herd to repay debts. Lost Valley has 10,500 dry and milking cows, along with 4,000 replacement heifers. The dairy is permitted for up to 30,000 animals.

MILTON-FREEWATER

School canceled after reported shooting threat

East Oregonian

Milton-Freewater schools were closed Friday after a McLoughlin High School student allegedly told another student he planned to carry out a school shooting.

A student was arrested Friday for fourth degree assault and disorderly conduct.

According to a news release from Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, deputies were investigating an assault complaint involving high school-aged males in the Milton-Freewater area Thursday night when a student reported the assault suspect had made a threat to shoot up the high school.

The sheriff's office located the suspect and his guardians Friday morning. The student "denied that he made any threatening statements towards the school or anywhere else, and had no intention to shooting anyone." He did not have access to firearms, but after interviewing the student and performing a threat assessment deputies determined there was enough evidence to arrest him for assault

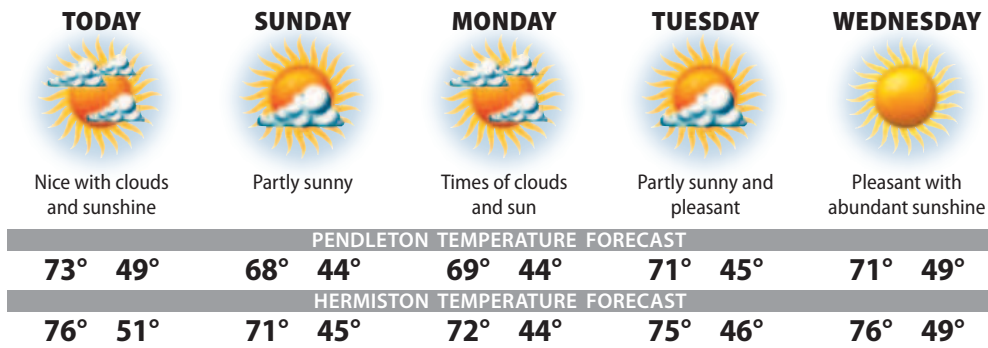
and disorderly conduct. He was lodged at a juvenile detention center in Walla Walla.

Superintendent Rob Clark said about 11:15 a.m. that law enforcement had notified him a few minutes earlier that the student was in custody. But when McLoughlin High School principal Mindi Vaughan called Clark early Friday morning to notify him of the situation, the student had not yet been located, prompting Clark to "err on the side of caution" and cancel all school for the district.

Clark said law enforcement emailed Vaughan on Thursday evening about 11 p.m. and she saw the email at 5 a.m. After conferring with law enforcement and Vaughan he made the decision to notify parents that school was being canceled across the district due to a "credible threat." He said these types of situations are difficult for administrators, but safety of staff and students is the first priority.

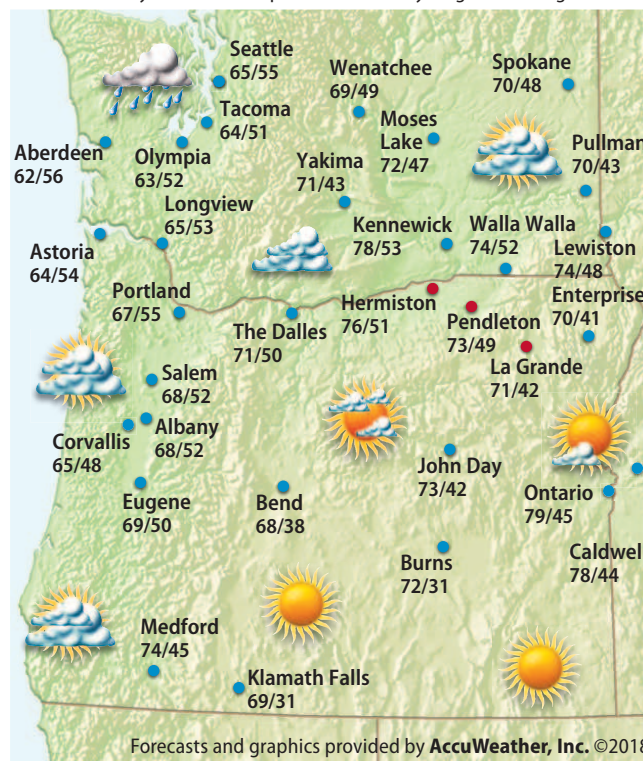
"Do I like canceling school?" he said. "No, I don't like canceling school. But it was the right decision."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

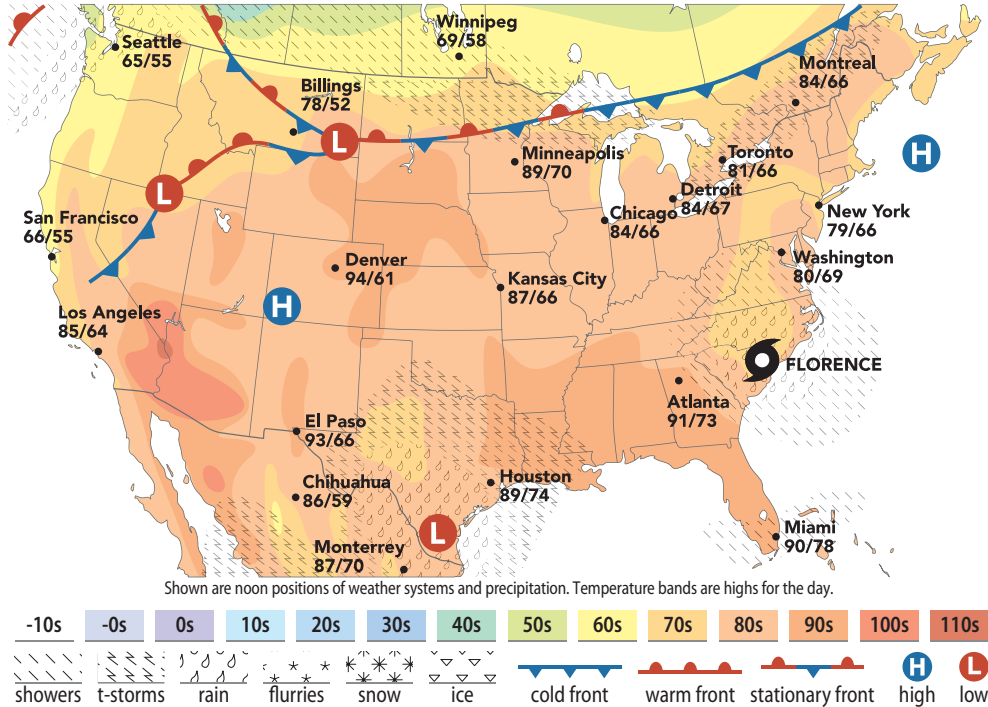
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	70°	45°
Normals	79°	50°
Records	94° (2013)	31° (1916)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"	
Normal month to date	0.21"	
Year to date	6.52"	
Last year to date	11.37"	
Normal year to date	8.59"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	41°
Normals	80°	49°
Records	96° (1937)	30° (1970)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.17"	
Year to date	5.15"	
Last year to date	6.65"	
Normal year to date	6.29"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	W 7-14
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:33 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:07 p.m.	
Moonrise today	1:10 p.m.	
Moonset today	10:50 p.m.	
Moon Phases		
First	Full	Last
Sep 16	Sep 24	Oct 2
		Oct 8

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 110° in Thermal, Calif. Low 18° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Feds tests first nationwide text alert

SALEM — The first-ever nationwide text message alert takes place Thursday.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management reported the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Communications Commission are coordinating the test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

The test will go out via radio, TV, cable stations and wireless carriers. The public warning system encompasses the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alert System.

The wireless portion of the test will occur Thursday at 11:18 a.m. and the Emergency Alert System portion at 11:20 a.m.

The text messages will state, "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System,"

according to state emergency management, and "No action is needed."

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System "is a national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency alerts and information from emergency officials to the public through radio, TV, cell phones and Internet applications," according to emergency management. This is the fourth emergency alert system test but the first national test of the Wireless Emergency Alert System.

Andrew Phelps, director of Oregon Emergency Management, said in a written statement the agency does not want anyone to be caught off guard.

"No matter where someone is — at work, in their car, at school, at the doctor's office, anywhere —

they should hear and see the alert on their phone," Phelps stated.

The nationwide test ensures that during an emergency or disaster, public safety officials have methods and systems that will deliver urgent alerts and warnings to the public. Federal agencies would use a nationwide wireless message only in the most extreme emergency situation.

Thursday's event also tests the operational readiness of a national message and reveals whether technological improvements are needed.

Oregon Emergency Management called the test very important to helping improve the ability to provide critical information to the public. For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>.

Bodycam video released in fatal shooting

PORTLAND (AP) — Body camera video from two campus police officers in Oregon shows they ordered a legally armed black man to drop a gun before opening fire, killing him.

Portland State University released the video Friday after Officers James Dewey and Shawn McKenzie were cleared of wrongdoing by a grand jury in the June 29 death of Jason Erik Washington, a 45-year-old Navy veteran and U.S. Postal Service employee who had a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

The two body camera videos and 70 freeze frame photos were released through public records requests.

A separate 397-page police report completed by the Portland Police Bureau, also released Friday, revealed the gun Washington had was not his, but belonged to his friend who had asked Washington to take it so he didn't make a "poor decision" in a drunken confrontation.

Washington, who had been

out drinking with friends, had a blood-alcohol level of more than three times the legal driving limit when he died, according to records from the medical examiner's office.

The footage from Dewey's camera shows the campus police officer rolling up to a fight on a street in downtown Portland outside a bar on the fringes of the university's campus. Dewey exits his patrol vehicle and a man at the scene says several times, "He pulled a gun on us! He pulled a gun!" as he points to Washington, who appears to be trying to

keep his friend from a fight.

At that point, Washington's visibly intoxicated friend breaks away and begins punching another man until he is kicked by a third person in the head and knocked out.

As Washington tries to pull the man away from his unconscious friend, Dewey grabs Washington's arm from behind and tells him to back away from the fight. A black object that appears to be a gun is visible protruding from Washington's right hip pocket at that moment in Dewey's body camera video.

Corrections

The name of the foundation providing special treatment for a local girl Thursday was misidentified in Friday's *East Oregonian*. The nonprofit Children's Western Wish Foundation presented gifts and recognition to Mikayla Herrera during this year's Pendleton Round-Up. "Adventures on the Water" on page 6C of today's *East Oregonian* erroneously reports the Hanford Nuclear Reservation produced uranium during World War II. Hanford produced plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The Friday article "Relay with rising stakes" misstated which race Umatilla Express advanced to. They raced in the consolation on Friday.

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