

Brown, lawmakers stage walkout supporting Kavanaugh accusers

By AUBREY WIEBER
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown and House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson took to the Capitol steps Monday morning to publicly support Christine Blasey Ford and Deborah Ramirez, both of whom have alleged U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted them years ago.

“I believe that sexual assault survivors should be heard, and particularly that there should be an investigation in this particular case, now that there has been a second allegation,” Brown said in a later interview.

Brown and Williamson were joined by dozens of lawmakers, mostly women, to take a political stance on sexual assault, as part of the

greater #MeToo movement. The walkout took place on the opening day of September’s Legislative Days, where lawmakers from throughout the state convene at the Capitol to prepare for the 2019 Legislature.

The walkout was short and silent, lasting about four minutes.

On Sunday, Ramirez joined Blasey Ford in making public allegations against Kavanaugh, nominated by President Donald Trump to replace Anthony Kennedy on the high court. U.S. Senate Republicans were attempting to get Kavanaugh approved quickly so he could join the court when it opens its next session on Monday. Blasey Ford’s accusation, followed by Ramirez’s accusation, has thrown a wrench into that plan.

The two accusers are asking



Gov. Kate Brown, left, and House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson stand in solidarity with victims of sexual assault on the Capitol steps on Monday.

ing that the FBI investigate the allegations. Brown, surrounded by lawmakers holding signs, said she believes the alleged victims.

Brown said Kavanaugh should withdraw from consideration of the lifetime appointment.

“I think the U.S. Senate, if

they decide to move forward, are doing a disservice to the American people and a disservice to the U.S. Supreme Court,” Brown said.

The two accusers are asking that the FBI investigate the allegations. Brown, surrounded by lawmakers holding signs, said she believes the alleged victims.

In addition to the walkout, Brown released a video again condemning the alleged actions of Kavanaugh and calling on the U.S. Senate to allow a full investigation.

While opinions on the Kavanaugh allegations have become heavily partisan, sexual assault is not. Rep. Keith Ellison, R-Minn., is alleged to have abused his former girlfriend. Several women have accused President Bill Clinton of sexual assault or harassment.

When asked if she supports victims of alleged perpetrators regardless of political affiliation, Brown said specifics of each situation matter, referencing former Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., who she said did the right thing by vacating his seat.

“It certainly depends upon the circumstances, right? For example, Senator Franken stepped down. I think it just depends upon the circumstance, and what I think is most important is that sexual assault survivors understand that they are being heard, that there are safe places for them to go.”

Reporter Aubrey Wieber: aubrey@salemsreporter.com or 503-375-1251. He is with the Oregon Capital Bureau, a collaboration of the Pamplin Media Group, EO Media Group, and Salem Reporter.

Expanded state government reporting comes to Oregon

Capital Bureau

SALEM — A news collaborative to sharpen and expand coverage of Oregon state government and politics has launched, combining the strengths of three news organizations.

The new team represents Pamplin Media Group, publisher of the Portland Tribune and 24 other news-

papers, EO Media Group, which publishes the East Oregonian, Daily Astorian and nine other newspapers, and Salem Reporter, a digital news service.

A reporter from each organization has been assigned to the Oregon Capital Bureau operation. They are Paris Achen of the Portland Tribune, Claire Withycombe of the East Oregonian and Daily Astorian, and Aubrey Wieber of Salem Reporter. They will work under the direction of Les Zaitz, editor of Salem Reporter and a veteran investigative reporter.

“This collaboration will dramatically boost our in-depth coverage of state government,” said Pamplin Media Group President Mark Garber. “We already

were partnering with EO Media Group to provide timely and comprehensive stories about the Legislature, the executive branch and state agencies. Now, by adding Salem Reporter, we will increase the number of journalists watching the capital and also benefit enormously from Les Zaitz’s journalistic leadership.”

“Throughout its 110-year history the EO Media Group has been committed to quality journalism,” said Heidi Wright, the group’s chief operating officer. “That commitment led us to our original collaboration with Pamplin Media Group to provide our readers with important stories other news outlets had abandoned. This coverage has never been more vital and the resources Salem Reporter brings to the effort will increase the value of this coverage to our readers.”

“News organizations across the state have whittled away at their coverage of state government, leaving citizens with less information than ever before. By combining forces, we give Oregonians the largest news team in the state focused exclusively on state government. We intend to be a potent watchdog over public money and government power,” said Zaitz.

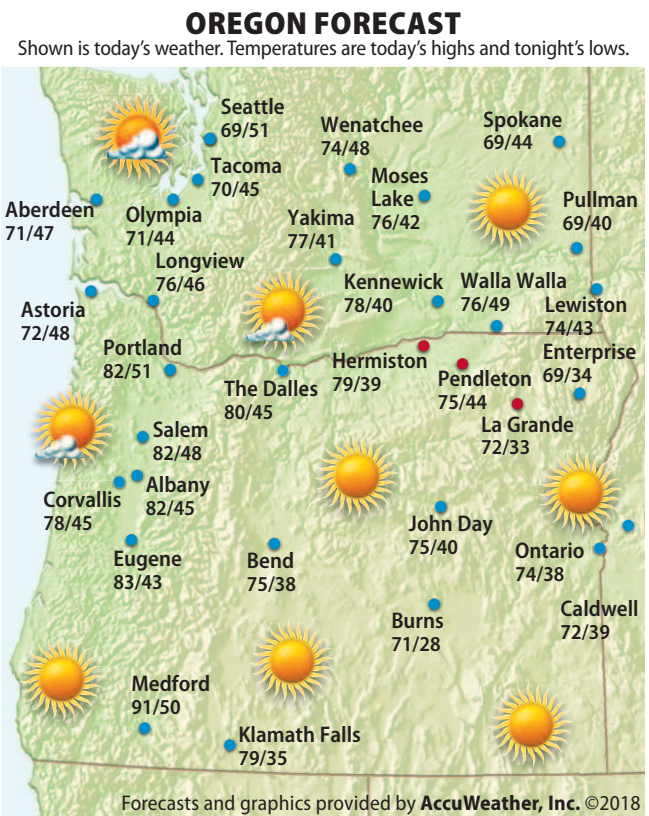
The new Oregon Capital Bureau team will provide breaking news, enterprise and investigative stories. The bureau’s stories will be shared with each of the news organization’s publications and their websites, provid-



Aubrey Wieber, left, of the Salem Reporter, Claire Withycombe of EO Media Group, and Paris Achen of Pamplin Media Group.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nice with abundant sunshine	Partly sunny and delightful	Sun and some clouds	Sunny and pleasant	Pleasant with partial sunshine
75° 44°	80° 47°	81° 49°	77° 44°	68° 44°
79° 39°	81° 42°	83° 46°	80° 43°	72° 44°



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	67°	37°
Normals	74°	47°
Records	95° (1899)	21° (1926)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.41"
Year to date	6.52"
Last year to date	12.28"
Normal year to date	8.79"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	35°
Normals	75°	45°
Records	91° (2011)	26° (2000)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.33"
Year to date	5.15"
Last year to date	7.01"
Normal year to date	6.45"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 3-6	SW 3-6
Pendleton	NE 4-8	NW 4-8

SUN AND MOON

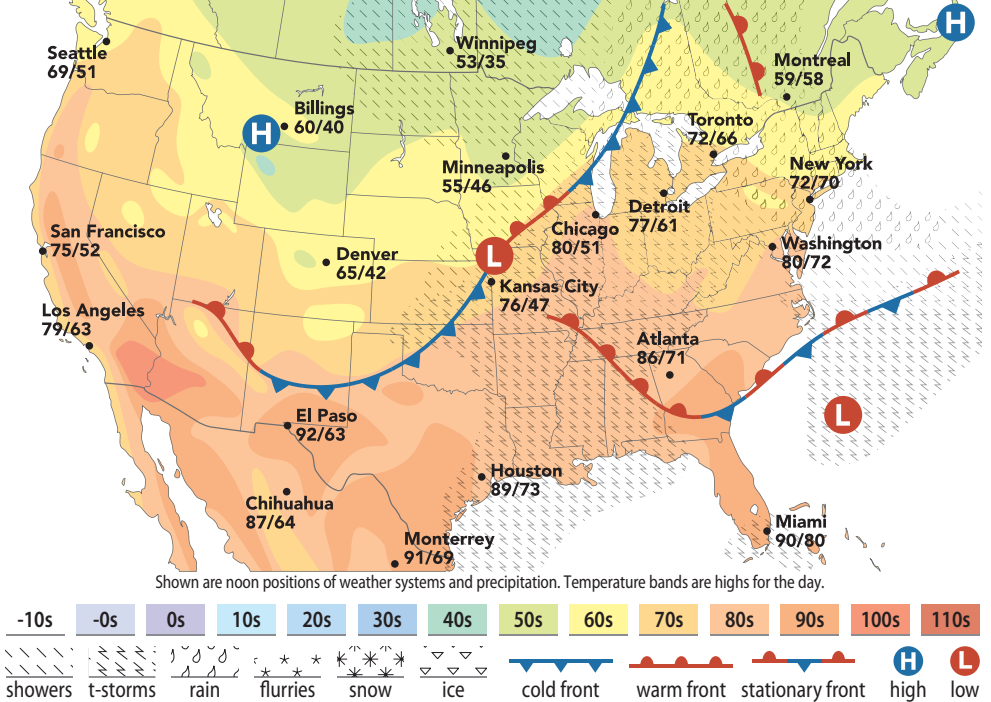
Sunrise today	6:46 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:31 p.m.
Moonset today	7:09 a.m.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 105° in Needles, Calif. Low 13° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Oregon Capitol’s famous cherry trees may get the ax

SALEM (AP) — The famous flowering cherry trees that bloom each spring in front of Oregon’s Capitol may get the ax.

State officials say the trees’ roots might be causing damage to the roof of the underground parking structure below and if so, the trees will need to be removed, The Statesman Journal reported Monday.

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services has hired a consultant to find out for sure and officials hope to have an answer by February, the newspaper said.

The double row of cherry trees has lined the mall since 1991, when the strip was excavated for the 1,200-space underground parking structure.

Each spring, the trees come into bloom and shower pink petals down on the mall, delighting residents and visitors.

The blooms were the inspiration for Cherry Blossom Day at the Capitol and honor the state’s cherry industry and the role of Japanese culture in Oregon.

The mall is part of State Capitol State Park, which also includes Willson Park on the west side of the Capitol and Capitol Park on the east side of the building.

State Capitol State Park became a new state park in 2008 and has since been managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

There are only 24 inches of soil between the park surface and the parking structure roof, park manager Kevin Strandberg said.

“For trees, as they get larger, they need to have deeper and deeper root growth,” Strandberg said.

som Day at the Capitol and honor the state’s cherry industry and the role of Japanese culture in Oregon.

The mall is part of State Capitol State Park, which also includes Willson Park on the west side of the Capitol and Capitol Park on the east side of the building.

State Capitol State Park became a new state park in 2008 and has since been managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

There are only 24 inches of soil between the park surface and the parking structure roof, park manager Kevin Strandberg said.

“For trees, as they get larger, they need to have deeper and deeper root growth,” Strandberg said.

“It was only a matter of time until they would have to do some replacement of this landscape planting.”

If trees need to be removed, the Department of Administrative Services would be responsible for replacing them, he said.

But the replacements would be small trees that would mature slowly over time.

State officials have been dealing with leaks in the parking structure for several years, Craig said.

The study, which is expected to cost about \$200,000, also will examine whether the waterproofing membrane or the storm-water runoff system have failed and will also assess the structural integrity of the building.

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.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

www.eastoregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to www.eastoregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
Copyright © 2018, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:
For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops
or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

EZPay	Local home delivery	Savings off cover price
52 weeks	\$14.50	41 percent
26 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
13 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:
541-966-0828

ADVERTISING
Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:
Christopher Rush
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com
Advertising Services: Grace Bubbar
541-276-2214 • gbubbar@eastoregonian.com
Multimedia Consultants:
• Kimberly Macias
541-278-2683 • kmacias@eastoregonian.com
• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com
• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com
• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising
1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS
• To submit news tips and press releases:
call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News:
email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.
• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries:
email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit www.eastoregonian.com/community/announcements
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:
541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

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

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