

Lawmakers let students do the talking on school changes

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau



Jonathan House/Pamplin Media Group
Lydia Wade-Sully, left, a junior at Portland's Cleveland High School, and Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, during the Sept. 27 Legislature's Joint Committee on School Success gathering at Portland.

If given a choice for one reform at his high school, Des'smen Pooler would add a mandatory class on preparing for college or career.

The senior at Portland's Parkrose High School said only about half of his peers have learned the value of attending postsecondary school or even how to apply for federal financial aid.

His schoolmate, senior Meme Branch, said students need more basic help with skills such as managing personal finances or cooking a meal at home.

"Some kids don't have parents to teach them," she said. "They need to learn about life, not just college."

The two shared their insights Thursday with lawmakers in Portland and are among nearly 300 students telling legislators how to fix Oregon schools.

Three out of four high school seniors earned a diploma in 2016, leaving Oregon with the third worst on-time graduation rate in the nation.

Fourteen legislators hope to change that, searching for ways to make school better focused on helping students toward a career while improving graduation.

As the Joint Committee on School Success, legislators have toured schools and held public meetings in nearly every part of the state, logging 2,100 miles in recent months. The committee has held eight public hearings, 10 listening sessions with students and toured 37 schools. Their stop in Portland Thursday was one of their last.

They finish their seven-month odyssey with a public hearing and school tours in Coos Bay on Oct. 10.

In December, the committee is scheduled to recommend education reforms.

Talking with students "is the best thing about this tour," said state Sen. Lew Frederick, D-Portland.

"We ask them what works, what's not working and what would you like to see? And they are very frank about it," he said.

He said he was struck by the amount of fear among students, stemming from a media focus on school shootings. Many students expressed a need for better mental health services. Mental health struggles, in many cases, impaired students' ability to learn, Frederick said.

At one high school in North Clackamas School District, there are only two counselors for nearly 1,300 students, Frederick said.

"The counselors had a two-month waiting list because they had no time, and they also were being told that they were supposed to be paying attention to the academic issues," he said.

Jenessa Teachout, a junior, said Thursday that conditions are similar at Gresham's Sam Barlow High School.

The counselors "are spread so thin they don't have time for us," Teachout said.

Another trend is frustration over standardized testing.

Students "want to know what in the world are they being tested so much for. It doesn't tell them anything," Frederick said.

State Sen. Amie Roblan, D-Coos Bay, and Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, D-Portland, the committee co-chairs, wrote in a joint newsletter Thursday that they've learned that different approaches to education can work.

"On back-to-back days, we toured a high school with one

of the strictest regimes we've seen and another where students have almost unlimited freedom," they wrote.

They were referring to Oregon National Guard's Youth Challenge Program, a military-style alternative high school near Bend, and the Redmond Proficiency Academy.

The Youth Challenge Program "is the most successful program of its kind in the country and succeeds for one segment of Oregon's student population where everything else has failed," the co-chairs wrote. "In most cases, the 22-week residential program is the last chance for students who have dropped out or are failing."

At least 250 students in the Youth Challenge Program each year earn a diploma or a GED or return to high school, while Redmond Proficiency Academy's on-time graduation rate exceeds the state's by more than 6 percent.

Luggage handler at PDX stole six guns

PORTLAND (AP) — Authorities say a baggage handler at Portland International Airport stole six guns from checked luggage.

Court documents filed Friday show that 26-year-old Deshawn A. Kelly was arrested on suspicion of theft, being a felon in possession of a firearm and attempting

to tamper with or obliterate the serial number on a firearm.

His court-appointed attorney, Michael Rees, had no comment.

Court documents show authorities found five of the six stolen guns at his home.

Police also placed guns in two "bait bags" to see who was taking the weapons.

A probable cause affidavit says Kelly admitted to stealing the guns in an interview.

Pendleton extends open burning ban

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Fire Department announced the city's ban on open burning remains in effect until further notice.

The city usually lifts the burn ban Oct. 1. Shaw Penning, assistant fire chief, stated the ban remains in place due to the weather and conditions. The city will lift the ban, according to the announcement, "after the area receives a significant rain event."

Firefighters late Wednesday through Thursday morning fought a grass fire that threatened homes on Northeast Ellis Place, Pendle-

ton. The ban covers the city, the Rieth Water District and the fire districts of Lower McKay, McKay Dam, and Riverside.

Open burning is any burning outdoors including burn barrels, backyard burning, and piles of yard debris that is generated from that property. Burning stumps, field burns, burning trash, commercial waste, demolition waste, construction debris and bonfires require special permits available from the Pendleton Fire Department at no charge.

The city of Pendleton prohibits burn barrels year-round. The ban does not include burn barrels within the fire districts. However,

according to the notice, residents can only use burn barrels on "green days" — the days Umatilla County determines are safe for burning. Call the county burn line at 541-278-6397 to find out if the day is "green."

Pendleton fire also warned it is against the law "to conduct any open burning that unreasonably interferes with enjoyment of life or property, creates a public or private nuisance, or is a hazard to public safety."

For a complete list of burning regulations, visit the Pendleton Fire Department at 911 S.W. Court Ave. or visit our website at www.pendleton.or.us/fire-ambulance.

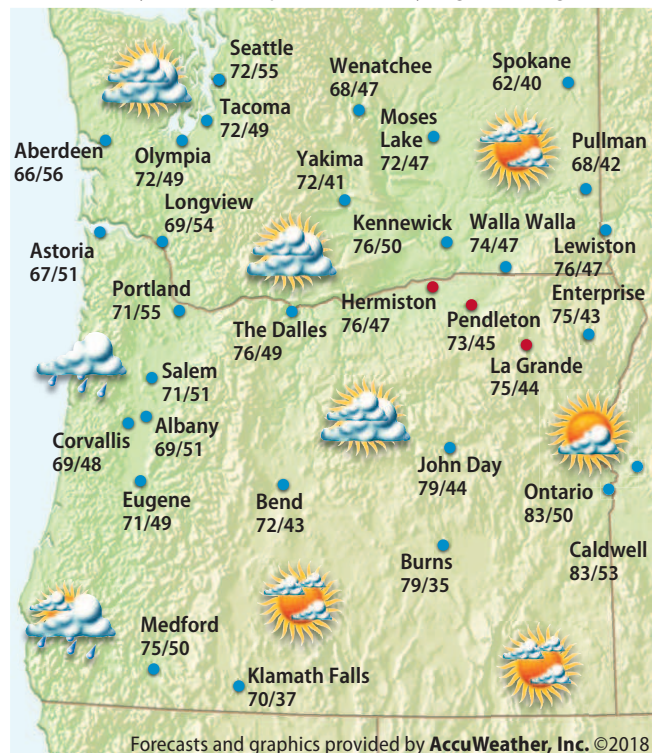
Forecast for Pendleton Area

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TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Increasing clouds	Nice with clouds and sunshine	Pleasant with clouds and sun	Nice with partial sunshine	Partly sunny
73° 45°	67° 43°	73° 49°	73° 45°	64° 46°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
76° 47°	70° 44°	76° 51°	77° 46°	67° 47°

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	74°	43°
Normals	72°	46°
Records	92° (1918)	27° (1911)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.51"
Year to date 6.52"
Last year to date 12.28"
Normal year to date 8.89"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	78°	45°
Normals	74°	44°
Records	89° (1994)	31° (2015)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.40"
Year to date 5.15"
Last year to date 7.01"
Normal year to date 6.52"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	NNE 6-12	W 4-8
Pendleton	NNW 6-12	W 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:51 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:39 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:34 p.m.
Moonset today	11:37 a.m.

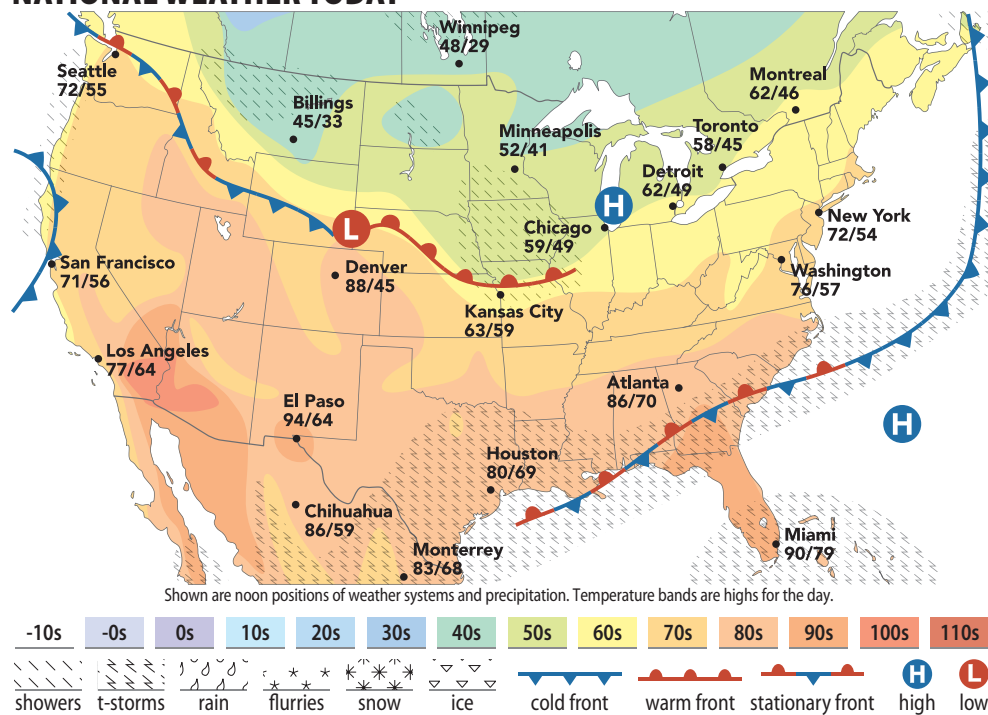
Last	New	First	Full
Oct 2	Oct 8	Oct 16	Oct 24

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 107° in Needles, Calif. Low 17° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



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

-10s	-0s	0s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	100s	110s
showers	t-storms	rain	flurries	snow	ice	cold front	warm front	stationary front	high	low			

Two die in Highway 395 crash near Burns

East Oregonian

Two residents of Hines died Thursday in a two-vehicle crash near Burns.

Oregon State Police reported troopers and emergency personnel at about 2:40 p.m. responded to the report of a crash at intersection of Highway 395 and U.S. Highway 20 about 2 miles east of Burns.

The investigation showed

Judy Patterson, 78, of Hines, was driving a 2000 Mercury Sable south on Highway 395 when she failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection with Highway 20. A west-bound 2015 Chevrolet Suburban struck the Sable on the driver's side.

Patterson and her passenger, Charles Thompson, 83, of Hines, died at the scene,

Amanda Hoyt, 43, of Burns, drove the Suburban.

An ambulance took her to the Harney District Hospital, Burns, where emergency medical staff treated and released her.

The crash closed the east-bound lane of Highway 20 for approximately 2.5 hours. Harney County Sheriff's Office, Burns Fire Department, Harney District Emergency Medical Services and Oregon Department of Transportation also responded to the crash.

Correction

Oregon State Police did not arrest Jesus Pacheco 22, of Boardman, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on Sept. 23, nor warn him for following too close. Rather, state police arrested Summer B. Putman, 22, of Richland, Washington, for the DUII and warned her for following too close. The East Oregonian sincerely regrets the error.

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