

# Astoria food pantry helps federal workers

By EDWARD STRATTON  
EO Media Group

More than 1,300 federal employees and their families left in economic limbo by the government shutdown lined up Saturday and Sunday outside the Astoria Masonic Lodge for the Be the Light food pantry.

Inside, a small army of volunteers shepherded them through a main hall lined with food, toiletries and other daily living needs donated by civic groups, businesses and residents over the past week.

Stacey Benson, a Coast Guard spouse, organized the pantry with the help of volunteers from other Coast Guard families, MOMS Club of Astoria, local Boy Scouts and other groups.

Volunteers counted 1,374 attendees, almost entirely from the Coast Guard, with several from other agencies like the National Park Service.

Boy Scout Troop 211 from Astoria helped gather donations for the Coast Guard over the past week. They and some other scouts from Portland were on hand over the weekend to help move supplies.

"A lot of people affected by this are my friends at school," said Kegan Rascoe, a senior patrol leader with Troop 211. "They're struggling to feed their families."

The average federal worker lost more than \$5,000 in pay during the first month of the shutdown, according to *The New York*

*Times*. There are an estimated 9,600 federal employees in Oregon furloughed or working without pay. The Coast Guard was last paid on Dec. 31.

There are more than 42,000 Coast Guard personnel working without pay, including most of the 500 in Sector Columbia River. Petty Officer 1st Class Levi Read, a spokesman for Sector Columbia River, said that between the beginning of the shutdown and Saturday, the agency had gone on 36 cases, saving 12 people in imminent danger and assisting another 53 needing towing and other services.

Capt. Jeremy Smith, commander of Sector Columbia River, said the response by the community has been phenomenal. The agency has been ensuring personnel know about all the financial and other support available, while trying to wrap in support for the employees of other shuttered federal agencies.

Senior Chief Matt Gerber, president of the Lower Columbia Chief Petty Officer Association, said the group has gathered more than \$27,000 in donations. The group distributes the money to personnel from Grays Harbor, Washington, to Tillamook and inland to units in Portland.

"What we owe (the community) when we come out of this, I don't know where to start," Gerber said.

Joshua Shaffer, a helicopter mechanic and hoist operator at Air Station Astoria, volunteered at the pantry over the weekend.



The Daily Astorian/Edward Stratton

**Hundreds of federal workers and their families affected by the government shutdown went to the Be the Light food pantry Saturday and Sunday at the Astoria Masonic Lodge.**

He has been on about five search and rescue cases this year and said the Coast Guard remains diligent regardless of the shutdown.

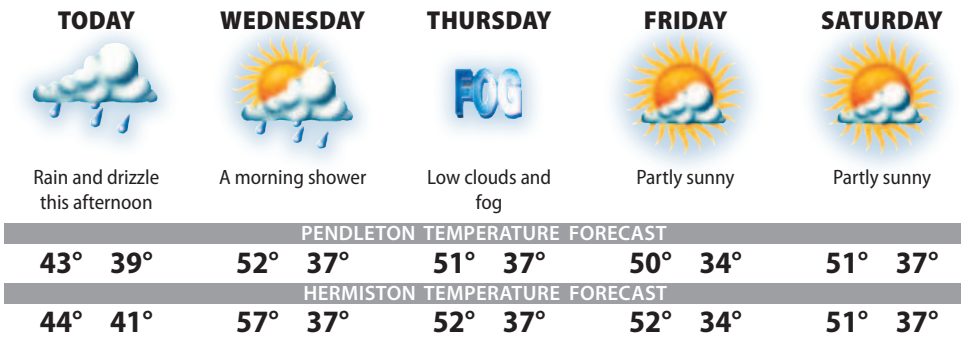
Many active-duty Coast Guard have been hesitant to talk publicly about the effect of the shutdown. But while he and others remain ready to serve, they need to take advantage of every opportunity to keep themselves and their families safe and fed, Shaffer said. "We can't be effective if we're worried about our family," he said.

Benson said the food pantry will come back next weekend and as long as the shutdown and community support continue.



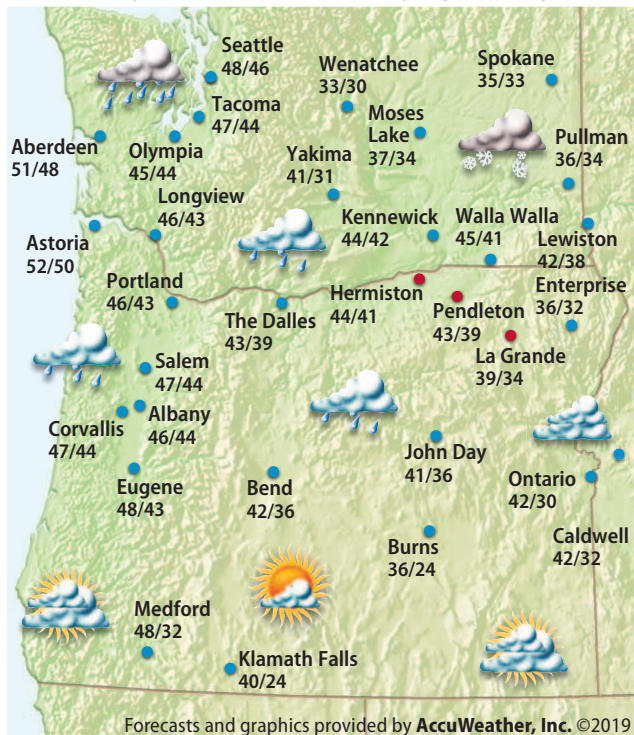
**The line of federal workers and their families outside the food pantry at times stretched down Franklin Avenue.**

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



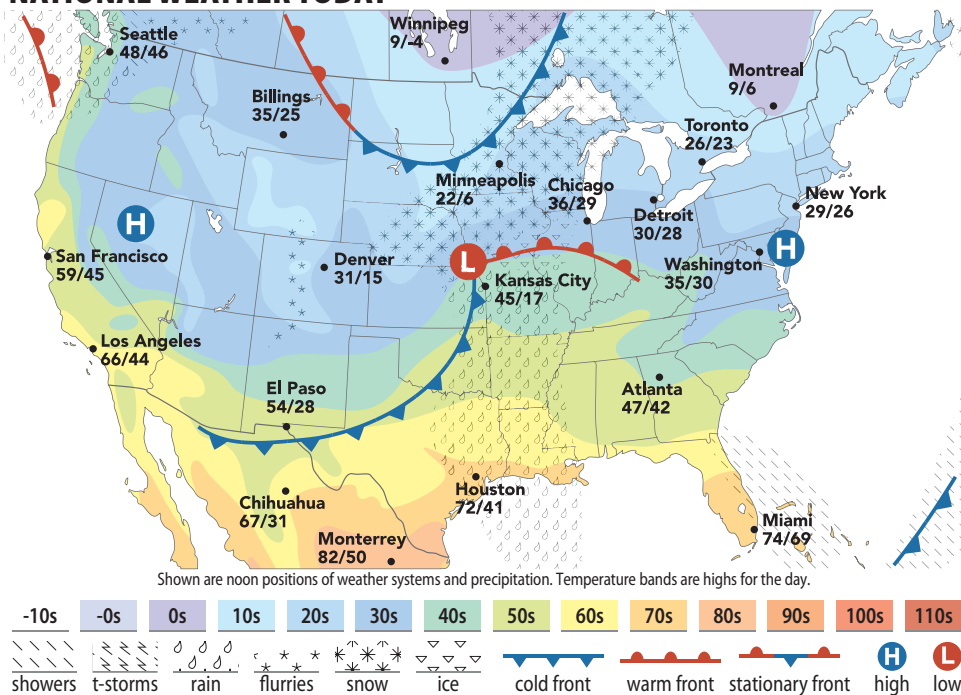
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH 41° LOW 32°		
Yesterday	41° 32°		
Normals	42° 28°		
Records	62° (1909) -26° (1930)		
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.10"		
Month to date	1.45"		
Normal month to date	1.03"		
Year to date	1.45"		
Last year to date	1.15"		
Normal year to date	1.03"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH 48° LOW 33°		
Yesterday	48° 33°		
Normals	42° 29°		
Records	62° (1972) -35° (1930)		
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.10"		
Month to date	1.14"		
Normal month to date	0.88"		
Year to date	1.14"		
Last year to date	0.79"		
Normal year to date	0.88"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	SW 4-8		
Wed.	WSW 10-20		
Pendleton	SSW 6-12		
	WSW 10-20		
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	7:27 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	4:47 p.m.		
Moonrise today	6:59 p.m.		
Moonset today	8:41 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
Jan 27	Feb 4	Feb 12	Feb 19

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 83° in Fort Stockton, Texas Low -42° in Togo, Minn.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Clackamas County deputies shoot man after he kills four in family

PORTLAND (AP) — A rural Oregon man killed four members of his family at the home they shared and was shot by sheriff's deputies as he tried to kill an 8-year-old girl, authorities said.

Mark Leo Gregory Gago, 42, killed his parents, his girlfriend and their infant daughter Saturday night before deputies shot him, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said.

The victims were not shot, *The Oregonian* reported. Sheriff's Office Sgt. Brian Jensen said the causes of death will be investigated.

"We're not sure what was used at this time," Jensen told reporters Sunday. "I've been told that there

were numerous weapons, swords, things of that nature in the residence. The investigators are trying to determine what exactly was used to kill each person."

The sheriff's office identified the victims as Olivia Gago, 9 months, Shaina Sweitzer, 31, Jerry Bremer, 66, and Pamela Bremer, 64.

The home is about 20 miles south of Portland and northeast of the city of Woodburn.

The sheriff's office took an emergency call from a resident of a home at about 10:15 p.m. Saturday. The caller described a violent and hectic scene, Jensen said.



Gago

"I've talked to investigators, 20-year veterans, and they're saying this is a shocking scene," Jensen said.

They found a woman dead outside the home and Gago attacking the child, Sweitzer's daughter from a previous relationship.

A roommate also survived. She suffered what deputies described as injuries and was being treated at a hospital.

Gago had been arrested in August on a weapons charge.

Jensen said by email that Gago was booked on a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon, but he did not know details.

# Walden talks border, taxes at meeting

BEND (AP) — Rep. Greg Walden, the only Republican in Oregon's congressional delegation, held his first town hall in Bend in nearly two years to discuss national and local issues facing his 2nd Congressional District.

The *Bulletin* reports a crowd packed into Mountain View High School on Saturday to hear from Walden. Before fielding questions Walden said: "Let's be civil to each other

as Oregonians."

A big issue was Walden's thoughts on the federal government shutdown.

Walden earned applause from the crowd when he reminded them he recently voted with Democrats to reopen much of the government. He also told the audience he supports President Donald Trump's views on strengthening border security.

"We have a humanitarian crisis on the border, and

we have a broken immigration system in the interior, and we need to fix both," Walden said.

Walden received pushback from the audience when he described his support for the federal tax cuts that some say benefit corporations more than individuals.

"It is no secret I supported them, and I think they have had a strong effect on the economy," Walden said as audience members bellowed in unison, "No."

# 22 cases of measles in Clark County

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Health officials say they have 22 confirmed measles cases in Clark County since the start of the year.

Clark County Public Health said Monday it is also investigating three

suspected cases of the infection. Officials say 19 of those infected were not immunized, while the three others are not verified to have had the vaccine.

Seventeen of the cases are for children under 10 years old, four cases are for

youth 11 to 18 years old, and one person is between 19 and 29 years old.

Those who are infected visited several public places while contagious, including the Portland International Airport, IKEA, health care facilities and schools.

**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.

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