

Measles cases rise to 26 in Washington outbreak

By LISA BAUMANN
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Health officials have confirmed 26 measles cases in western Washington in an outbreak that began earlier this month.

In Clark County, where the outbreak has been centered, the number of cases rose to 25 as of Thursday, with a dozen more suspected cases under investigation, said Dr. Scott Lindquist, epidemiologist for communicable diseases with the Department of Health.

King County also confirmed one case this week involving a man in his 50s who had recently visited Clark County, he said.

“We usually have five cases or less a year,” he said. “At this point, we’re expecting it to move across the state.”

Twenty-one of the people infected were not immunized, according to officials. The others are not verified to have had the vaccine.

Nineteen of the Clark County cases involve children younger than 10. Five cases involve those from 11 to 18, and one infected person is between 19 and 29 years old.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness spread

when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can remain in the air for up to two hours in an isolated space.

Those who may have been exposed should watch for early symptoms of fever and malaise and then a rash starting on the head and moving down the body, Lindquist said. “You feel miserable,” he said.

While many people feel like measles are not a big deal, officials are concerned because serious complications such as pneumonia and brain infections can arise, Lindquist said. He also urged people who have not received the vaccine to get it now.

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

The Clark County Public Health said Thursday the people newly confirmed to have measles have stayed home, preventing additional exposures to the public. County officials on Friday declared a public health emergency over the outbreak.

People who think they may have the measles are asked to contact their health care provider before visiting to avoid exposing others.

Legislators back plan to spend \$3B more on schools

By PARIS ACHEN,
AUBREY WIEBER and
CLAIRE WITCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

A small group of legislators spent a year compiling their wish list of improvements to Oregon’s failing education system. Now they have five months to whittle it down to something realistic, find a way to fund it and sell the rest of their colleagues on spending up to \$3 billion more on K-12 education. The state currently spends about \$8.2 billion.

“We only get one chance to educate our children,” said state Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner. “They’re only in first grade once, they’re only in 10th grade once. We need to take advantage of that opportunity.”

A report released Thursday details the wish list a legislative committee compiled after a summer of hearings and tours around Oregon. The report echoes much of what the committee already has said publicly is needed to improve schooling for Oregon’s children. That includes a longer school year, more state-paid preschool, diversity among teachers and smaller class sizes.

It also shows lawmakers have learned from past mistakes.

“Historically, the school state fund has not come with



Pamplin file photo

Sen. Lew Frederick talks with Portland students in September 2018 during a tour of the state by the Joint Committee on School Success.

strings attached,” said state Rep. Barbara Smith Warner, D-Portland, co-chair of the Joint Committee on School Success. “What we are trying to do is to ... tie this funding to outcomes. It’s not just, let’s put more money in the state school fund.”

That means school districts around Oregon might have to agree to measurable improvements to get and keep extra state money.

The state would work with districts to come up with tailored plans. What works in a large, urban school might not be right for a school of just a couple hundred students, legislators said. If the districts follow through on the plan and see improvement, the state would continue paying for their initiatives.

“We want to focus on outcomes-based funding,” Smith Warner said. “...What is most responsive to your community’s needs, and how you’re going to measure your success and how we’re going to measure your success.”

The proposals would

transform Oregon’s school system in every way, from how the state intervenes with toddlers at risk of abuse to technical training for high school seniors who aren’t college bound. Fewer kids would go hungry and more children in poverty would be able to go to preschool under the new plan.

The lawmakers emphasized bolstering services for low-income families with young children, starting the help at infancy.

“Kids in crisis can’t learn,” Smith Warner said. “We have students all across the state, urban, rural, from the biggest schools to the smallest, that have had significant trauma. They’re facing food insecurity, housing insecurity. The schools need to deal with that.”

In that vein, legislators want to expand Early Head Start. It provides full-day programs for infants and toddlers from low-income families but is only available to 2,064 kids of the 25,000 eligible.

The group found the state wasn’t adequately funding

early intervention and early childhood special education. Full funding would cost an additional \$37.5 million per year.

The legislators also propose propping up Oregon’s most needy families. Committee members found state programs provide home visits to only 10 percent of 30,000 at-risk families who need such services.

The 84-page report stops short of outlining how to pay for all of these ideas. They have punted those questions to three smaller groups of lawmakers who on Thursday will sort out the details, including how to pay for these changes.

Lengthening the school year and limiting class sizes are among the most expensive recommendations.

Committee members found Oregon’s school year, which ranges from 150 days to 170 days, isn’t enough. They would like to reach the national average of 180 days.

But adding those days would cost an estimated \$258 million per year.

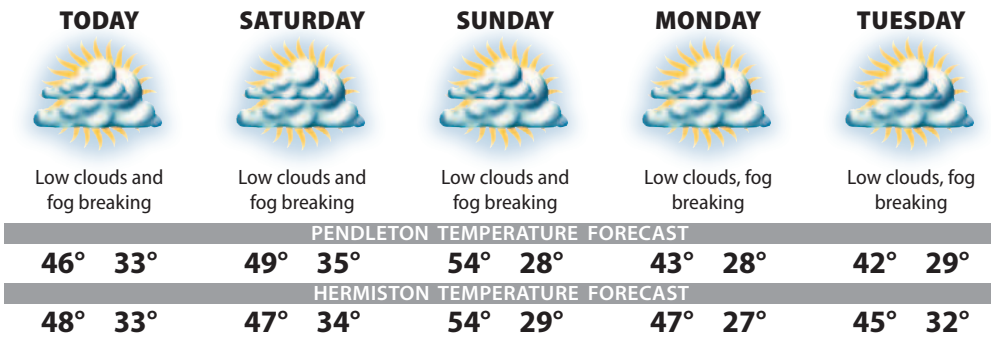
And caps on class sizes — which would range from 20 in kindergarten and first grade to 29 for core academic classes in grades 6 through 12 — would cost about \$185 million per year.

Smith said he supports the committee’s requests — but it’s not clear if his fellow Republicans agree.

In an interview this week, Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger, R-Grants Pass, dismissed the notion that more funding means better education.

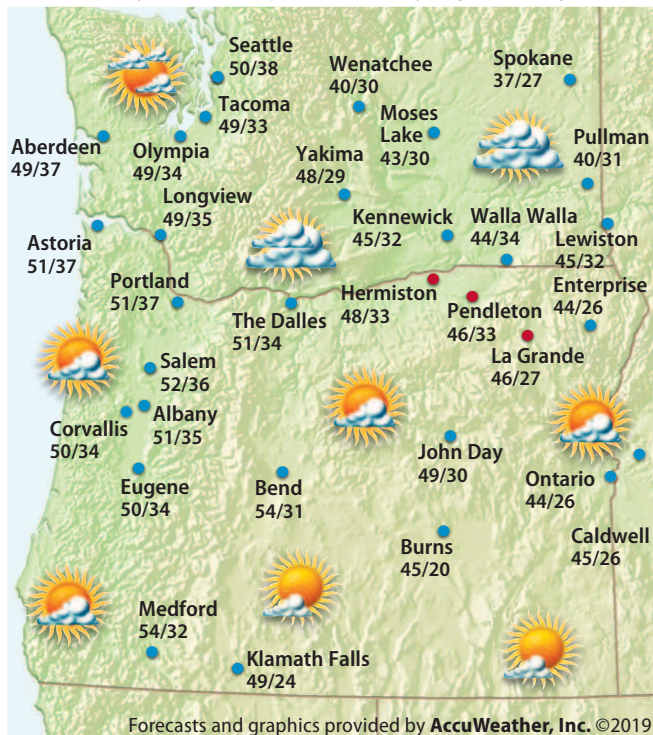
“I see private schools having less money but having better results,” Baertschiger said. “I’m trying to figure out what’s going on here.”

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	50°	39°		
Normals	42°	28°		
Records	71° (1935)	-15° (1930)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace			
Month to date	2.07"			
Normal month to date	1.14"			
Year to date	2.07"			
Last year to date	1.46"			
Normal year to date	1.14"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	52°	35°		
Normals	43°	29°		
Records	63° (1935)	-16° (1949)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	1.53"			
Normal month to date	1.00"			
Year to date	1.53"			
Last year to date	1.02"			
Normal year to date	1.00"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Sat.		
Boardman	NE 4-8	NE 4-8		
Pendleton	W 4-8	NE 4-8		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	7:25 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	4:51 p.m.			
Moonrise today	10:47 p.m.			
Moonset today	10:20 a.m.			
	Last	New	First	Full
	Jan 27	Feb 4	Feb 12	Feb 19

\$3.4 million suit contends state agency neglect caused teen’s death

PORTLAND (AP) — Attorneys for a Warrenton boy killed in 2017 are suing Oregon’s child welfare agency, alleging the state failed to prevent the 15-year-old’s death.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the lawsuit filed Tuesday seeks \$3.4 million for the surviving relatives of Trevor Secord.

The Warrenton High School student died in January 2017 after a pickup truck

struck and killed him while he was drinking with friends.

The lawsuit alleges case workers at the Department of Human Services ignored red flags before he died.

Trevor was hospitalized in August 2016 for alcohol poisoning with a blood alcohol level more than five times the legal limit for adults but the complaint says a case worker decided not to investigate further. The lawsuit identifies Trevor by a different last name, Crossgrove.

A spokesperson for the child welfare agency didn’t immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

In the Wednesday story “Student ropes in online education,” Marie Shimer was misidentified. She is the director of educational services at the Morrow County School District. The EO regrets the error.

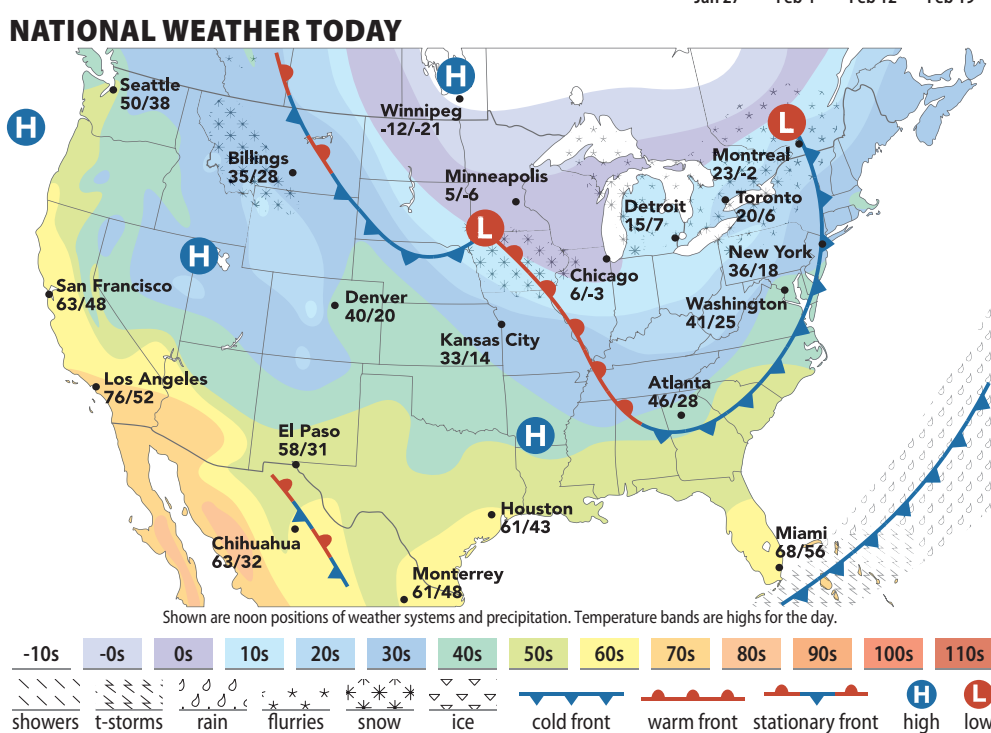
CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 85° in Marathon, Fla. Low -23° in Bottineau, N.D.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Diabetes Education Series



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February 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
9:30am to 11:30am
 Advance Registration Required
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