

# Runner recalls fight with mountain lion

Colorado man says he felt a wave of fear before suffocating cat

By P. SOLOMON BANDA  
Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Fear washed over Travis Kauffman as he wrestled with a thrashing mountain lion that attacked him on a Colorado mountain trail, but then his fighting instinct took over as he found its neck with his foot and suffocated the young cat.

The 31-year-old trail runner recalled Thursday his encounter with the silent cat that lunged at him from behind, clamped its jaws down on his wrist and clawed at his neck, face and body. Striking the mountain lion on the head with a rock didn't get it to release its grip. Neither did his attempts to stab the animal in the neck with twigs.

"There was a point where I was concerned that I wasn't going to make it out," Kauffman told reporters. "I had that wave of fear roll over me and thought I could end up there."

It was the first time Kauffman publicly recounted the Feb. 4 ordeal that left him with 28 stitches and a reputation for toughness and bravery that overshadows his wiry frame.

"I will never be able to live up to the reputation," said Kauffman, who is 5-foot-10 and weighs about 155 pounds. "The story is bigger than my puny form."



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Travis Kauffman responds to questions during a news conference Thursday in Fort Collins, Colo., about his encounter with a mountain lion while running a trail just west of Fort Collins last week. Kauffman's girlfriend, Annie Bierbower, looks on.

Kauffman said he was running on a trail in the mountains west of Fort Collins when he heard pine needles rustle behind him. He turned to see the mountain lion about 10 feet away.

"One of my worst fears was confirmed," he said.

The cat lunged, and Kauffman raised his hands and screamed. The animal locked its teeth onto his wrist and they tumbled off the side of the trail.

Kauffman grabbed a rock with his free hand and beat the cat on the back of the head. He also tried stabbing it with twigs, but nothing worked.

"It really clicked after I hit it

in the head with a rock and it still didn't release my wrist that at that point, more drastic measures were necessary," he said. "I was able to kind of shift my weight and get a foot on its neck" until it succumbed.

Bleeding from his face and wrist, he jogged back down the trail, where he met other runners who got him to a hospital.

"I was just thankful that he had his eyes and his fingers and all his parts, and it didn't look as bad as I maybe would have thought that it could," said Kauffman's girlfriend, Annie Bierbower.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers retrieved the dead cat.

# Proposal would lower voting age in Oregon to 16

If legislators OK the measure, it would go to voters for final approval

By LAUREN DAKE  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

There is an effort underway in Salem to change Oregon's legal voting age from 18 to 16 years old.

Portland-based Democratic state Sen. Shemia Fagan introduced a measure Monday to make Oregon the first state in the nation to do so.

"It's time to lower the voting age in Oregon and to give our young people a chance to participate in the ballot, about their decisions that affect their homes, their clean air, their future, their schools and as we've seen, their very lives," Fagan said.

The state senator pointed to the young activists who became engaged after the Parkland shooting in Florida, which left 17 people dead. They proved young people are active and should have a right to vote, Fagan said.

Several teenagers spoke in favor of the measure alongside Fagan on Monday at the Capitol.

"Why can I drive like an adult, pay taxes like an adult, be charged and sentenced like an adult, but I can't vote like an adult?" asked Christine Bynum, a student at La Salle High School.

Students spoke of a desire to curb gun violence and to protect the environment.

"We're experts of our own experiences," said Connor Gabor.

People are being sexually assaulted in their schools, Gabor said. People are being shot. Yet, they can't vote for school board members or lawmakers, he said.

"When we have a lockdown and fear for our lives, we know what that feels like. We want to take agency over our own lives," Gabor said.

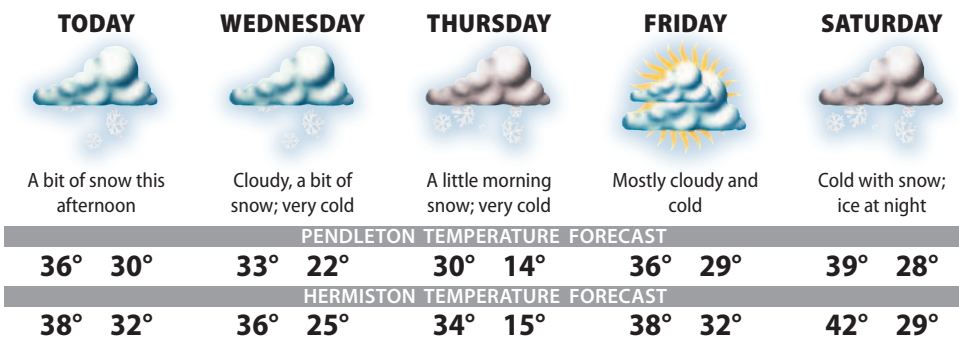
Fagan is proposing a change to the Oregon Constitution. If lawmakers approve the measure, it would then be sent to the voters.

Fagan said she hopes it's on the ballot in the 2020 election.

"Oregon is a state of innovation when it comes to election reform, and it makes sense for us to consider the bold proposal of lowering the voting age this session," said Samantha Gladu, executive director of the Bus Project, which is behind the measure.

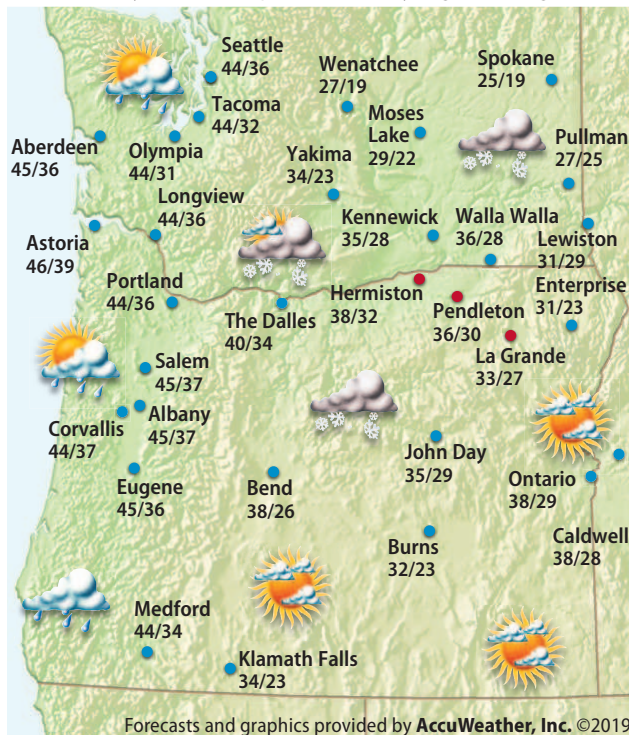
"In Oregon, we consistently push the boundary of what is possible and look for creative ways to include as many voices as possible in our democracy," Gladu added. "We want all Oregonians to be heard."

## 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	32°	24°
Normals	47°	30°
Records	76° (1902)	6° (2006)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	1.54"
Normal month to date	0.74"
Year to date	3.61"
Last year to date	2.17"
Normal year to date	2.12"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	36°	20°
Normals	49°	29°
Records	71° (1930)	5° (1929)

PRECIPITATION 24 hours ending 3 p.m.

Month to date	1.40"
Normal month to date	0.62"
Year to date	2.93"
Last year to date	1.61"
Normal year to date	1.90"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	NNW 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	NNW 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:52 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:27 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:48 p.m.
Moonset today	7:11 a.m.

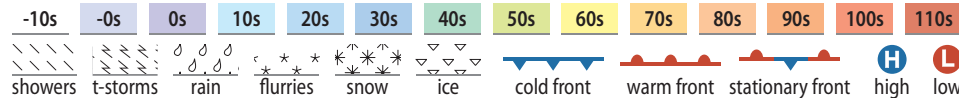
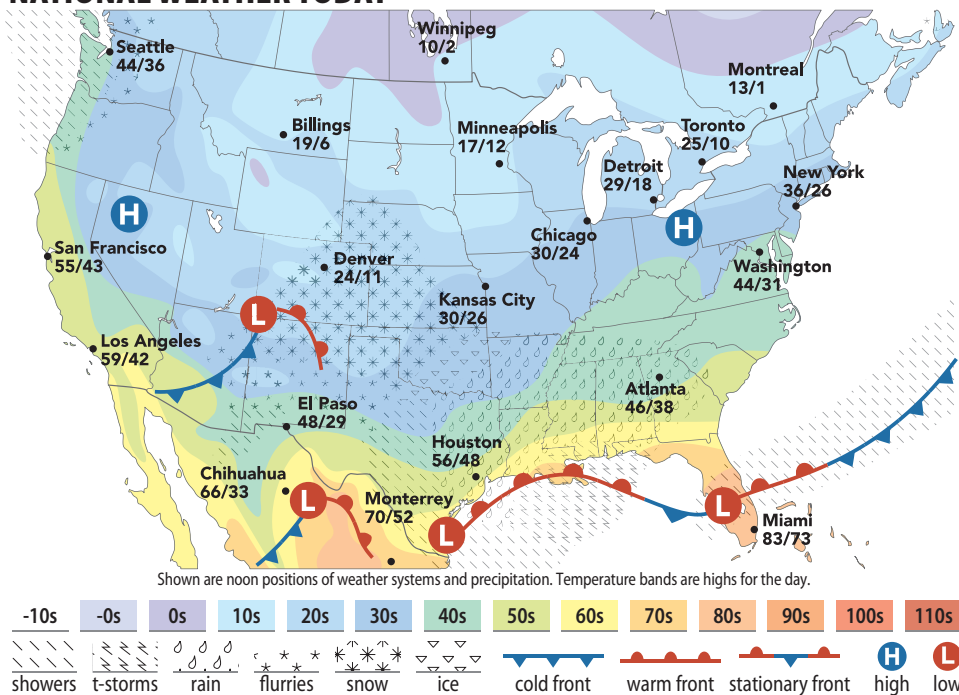


## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 90° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -32° in Daniel, Wyo.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## BRIEFLY



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

As his mother Wenyi Zhang holds him, 1-year-old Abel Zhang looks at the book being given him by Dr. Lauren Lawler, right, as his grandmother Ding Hong helps with his clothes moments after the child received the last of three inoculations, including a vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), at the International Community Health Services Feb. 13 in Seattle.

## Measles case count grows to 61

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Clark County Public Health has identified two new measles cases and two new exposure locations in its ongoing outbreak investigation.

Public Health spokeswoman Marissa Armstrong released a statement Sunday saying the agency has identified 61 confirmed cases of the highly contagious virus.

Of the 61 cases confirmed in Clark County, 54 were not immunized against measles. Immunization status couldn't be verified for five cases, and two cases involved a child who had received only a single dose of the MMR vaccine.

The majority of confirmed Clark County cases — 44 — involve children between the ages of 1 and 10.

The two new locations where people may have been exposed to measles are two schools — one elementary and one middle — in Vancouver.

## Mother, son rescued from Silver Falls

SUBLIMITY (AP) — A mother and her 3-year-old son walked out of Silver Falls State Park after getting lost on a hike and spending the night in sub-freezing temperatures.

KGW-TV reports Monday that Josie Chysm, 24, of Salem, and her son set out on a hike around noon Sunday with Chysm's boyfriend, Joshua Dixsen, 25.

But the trio became lost and Dixsen hiked out for help while Chysm and the boy waited under a tree along the Rim Trail.

Dixsen was able to make a cellphone call around 3 a.m. and the mother and son were rescued shortly after 8 a.m. They were cold and wet but otherwise unharmed.

The group didn't have proper clothing or gear for winter weather.

Temperatures dropped into the 20s overnight.

Authorities also rescued another hiker in the Columbia River Gorge late Sunday.

**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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