

**BRIEFLY**

**Hermiston man arrested for running over a woman**

A Hermiston man was arrested Thursday night and lodged in the Umatilla County Jail on charges of domestic violence and assault, which included strangulation and attempting to run over a woman.

Jason Eugene Dungan, 38, was arrested at Northwest 13th Street late Thursday evening. According to a Hermiston Police Department press release, officers responded to a domestic disturbance on Northwest 13th Street around 6:35 p.m. Thursday, and found a 47-year-old woman lying on the ground with what appeared to be multiple injuries.

Umatilla County Fire District crews transported the woman to Good Shepherd Medical Center, and she was later flown to Portland for specialized treatment for some of her injuries. Police said they do not know her status as of Friday afternoon.

The police investigation revealed that Dungan and the woman had been arguing verbally, but the fight turned physical. Neighbors who witnessed the fight allege that Dungan strangled the woman and verbally threatened her life. The neighbor intervened and stopped the assault. Dungan allegedly grabbed the victim's keys, stole her vehicle and, according to the witness, drove the vehicle over the victim as she was lying on the sidewalk, nearly hitting witnesses as well.

Dungan returned to the scene around 11 p.m., was contacted by HPD officers, and was taken into custody. He is lodged in the Umatilla County Jail, and is charged

with second-degree assault, unauthorized use of a vehicle, strangulation, hit and run with injury, reckless driving, driving while suspended, reckless endangerment, criminal mischief, failure to appear and failure to pay fines.

**Pickup strikes pedestrian in Pendleton**

PENDLETON — A woman suffered minor injuries Tuesday when a vehicle struck her in a downtown Pendleton crosswalk.

Pendleton police Lt. Tony Nelson reported the slow-speed collision occurred at 5:07 p.m. when the driver of a Dodge pickup on Southwest Frazer Avenue was turning left on Southwest First Street.

"He saw a pedestrian on the sidewalk but did not realize she was crossing the road within the crosswalk," according Nelson.

The driver turned into First and stopped once he realized the woman was crossing, but that was too late. The pickup struck her in the crosswalk, knocking her to the asphalt and causing her to suffer minor injuries, Nelson reported.

An ambulance transported her to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, as a precaution, and police cited the driver for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

**More snow predicted for Blue Mountains, region**

The National Weather Service is warning of a "prolonged snow event" to begin Saturday night and last through Wednesday morning across the Northwest.

The winter storm could bring heavy snow — 5-8 inches — in the lower Columbia Basin and to the foothills of northern Blue Mountains.



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky, File

In this Sept. 30, 2016, file photo, a marijuana harvester examines buds going through a trimming machine near Corvallis.

**Questions raised about cannabis growers' water use**

Associated Press

BEND — Charles Cook and Suezan Hill-Cook didn't think much of a medical marijuana growing operation when it set up shop next to their home near Redmond in 2015. Over the next few years, however, they and other neighbors grew increasingly frustrated with the noise, smells and traffic that come with a cannabis operation.

Then, during the hottest part of last summer, the well the couple relies on for water went dry, and they had to drill a new one. They blamed the marijuana growing operation.

"That was the last straw," Hill-Cook said, *The Bulletin* reported Friday.

State and federal research does not link drops in the water level to cannabis-growing operations. While everyone agrees that groundwater levels are declining in parts of the county, the research shows recent declines are part of a larger trend.

Still, the couple's claim is far from unique in Deschutes County. In areas of the county where cannabis operations have sprung up, anecdotal reports of wells running dry have followed. While a state investigation determined that growing operations had a relatively limited effect on groundwater near Tumalo, that hasn't stopped rural Deschutes County residents

from drawing a connection between uses.

After recreational cannabis was legalized in November 2014, subsequent legislation defined it as a farm crop, to be protected under Oregon's Right to Farm laws and subject to Oregon's agricultural water quality rules. Deschutes County code requires a business looking to grow marijuana to provide a water right permit, a statement that water is available from a public or private water provider, or proof from the Oregon Water Resources Department that the property does not require a water right.

Some growers hoping to break into the recreational market eschew traditional irrigation water, which is typically available only from April to October. Instead, some growers have secured rights to use groundwater to grow cannabis year-round.

In 2017, Bill Tye, a long-time Alfalfa resident with a background in water management, began looking into the impacts stemming from cannabis operations in response to one proposed well near his home. He found that between 2015 and 2017 seven domestic wells in his region had to be redrilled and deepened. Tye, who died in January, included the findings in written testimony opposing the proposed cannabis operation.

A 2013 study from the U.S. Geological Survey

concluded that parts of the Deschutes Basin saw water level declines of up to 14 feet between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s, years before recreational marijuana was legalized.

In response to concerns expressed by the Deschutes County Commission, the Oregon Water Resources Department investigated 11 marijuana growers near Tumalo during the summer of 2018. Central Oregon Watermaster Jeremy Giffin, who conducted the investigation, concluded the handful of growing operations that had gotten up and running in the area had a very small impact on the overall decline in groundwater levels.

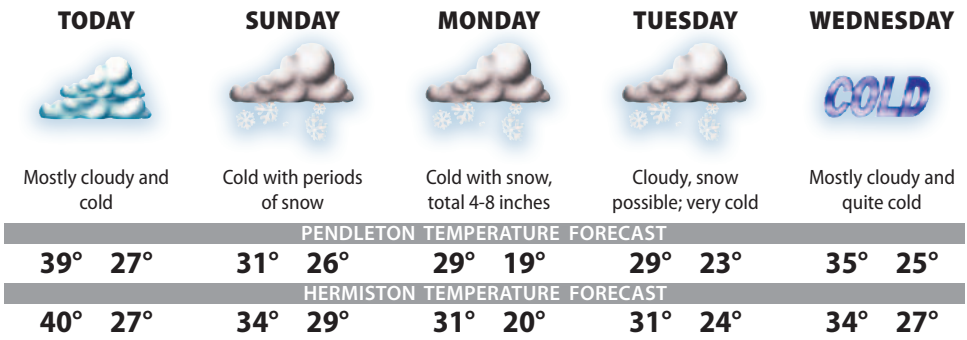
"At the end of day, we were surprised at how little water they were using," Giffin said.

Giffin attributed the declines to a prolonged period of dry weather, which has resulted in less snowmelt replenishing the region's groundwater supply, along with more people using the groundwater in rural Deschutes County and less water seeping into the system as more irrigation canals get piped.

He said the average marijuana grower uses about 3,000 gallons of groundwater per day, significantly more than most homes, but less than many agricultural uses.

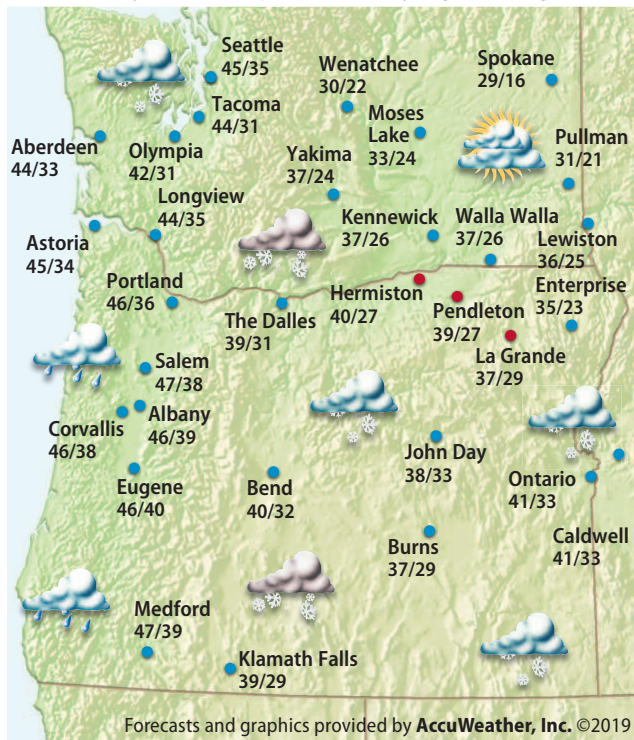
"That is just a drop in the bucket," Giffin said.

**Forecast for Pendleton Area**



**OREGON FORECAST**

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



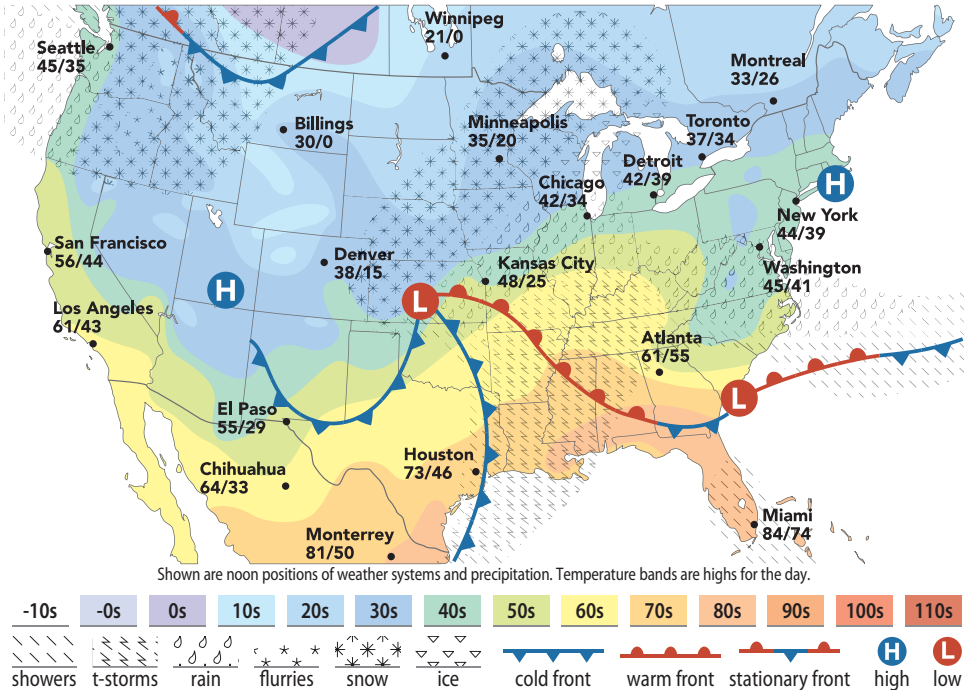
**ALMANAC**

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	40°	18°
Normals	49°	30°
Records	68° (2002)	5° (1894)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.72"	
Normal month to date	0.90"	
Year to date	3.79"	
Last year to date	2.25"	
Normal year to date	2.28"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	39°	16°
Normals	50°	30°
Records	71° (1988)	13° (1993)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	1.47"	
Normal month to date	0.75"	
Year to date	3.00"	
Last year to date	1.61"	
Normal year to date	2.03"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	SSW 4-8	
Sun.	N 4-8	
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	
	NW 6-12	
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:45 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	5:33 p.m.	
Moonrise today	10:53 p.m.	
Moonset today	9:15 a.m.	

**NATIONAL EXTREMES**

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 90° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -36° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

**NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY**



**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.

**A BENEFIT FOR THE WOOLERY PROJECT**

**COUNTRY COWBOY EXPERIENCE**

**MARCH 2-2019**

PENDLETON, OREGON  
LET'ER BUCK ROOM

**CHUCKWAGON DINER 5:30 PM**  
**LIVE MUSIC 6:30 PM**

**TICKETS \$40**

**JONI HARMS**  
IS A GREAT SINGER,  
SONGWRITER AND ENTERTAINER  
WHO HONORS THE TRADITIONS OF  
WESTERN LIFESTYLE THROUGH HER MUSIC.

**FACEBOOK.COM/THEWOOLERYPROJECTINC**

**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

**EastOregonian.com**  
To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255  
or go online to 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 © 2019, EO Media Group

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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

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

**Single copy price:**  
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

**Circulation Manager:**  
Bonny Tuller, 541-966-0828

**ADVERTISING**  
**Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:**  
• Christopher Rush  
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

**Advertising Services:**  
• Angela Treadwell  
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com  
• Grace Bubar  
541-276-2214 • gbubar@eastoregonian.com

**Multi-Media 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  
• 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 eastoregonian.com/community/announcements  
• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

**Business Office Manager:**  
541-966-0822

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