

Road rage suspect, Washington deputy die in gun fight

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A sheriff's deputy was killed in central Washington state and a police officer was shot and wounded after they exchanged gunfire with a road rage driving suspect, authorities said Wednesday. The driver was also shot and later died at a hospital.

Tuesday evening, the two officers tried to stop the suspect's vehicle after authorities received a complaint about the man's driving, said Ellensburg Police Chief Ken Wade.

The man, who has not been identified, was chased by police until he stopped the car near the town of

Kittitas. He got out and exchanged gunfire with the sheriff's deputy and the police officer, Wade said.

"It was reported as a road-rage type event, with erratic driving on the part of the suspect," said Wade, whose office is investigating the incident.

Sheriff's deputy Ryan Thompson, 42, was killed and Kittitas police officer Benito Chavez, 22, was shot in the leg and suffered a shattered femur, Wade said.

The suspect died at a hospital and Wade said authorities were still trying to identify him. Authorities did not provide information about how many times he was shot



Thompson

and Wade said he did not know how many shots were fired overall by the officers and the suspect.

Thompson had been a law enforcement officer for years, joined the sheriff's department in 2013, said Kittitas County Sheriff Gene Dana.

"Our community has a very heavy heart today," Dana told reporters. "This officer was a great officer."

It was the first fatal shooting of a law enforcement officer in the rural county in 92 years, he said.

Wade said authorities have no information as to what prompted the suspect to flee and exchange gunfire with the officers.



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

The body of a Kittitas County Sheriff's deputy is carried out of Kittitas Valley Healthcare Hospital in the early morning hours of Wednesday in Ellensburg, Wash.

Amber alert in Hermiston area cancelled as girl found safe in another state

An Idaho girl and her mother were located on Wednesday after an Amber Alert was issued that centered on the Hermiston area.

The missing 10-year-old girl and her mother, both

from Nampa, Idaho, were located in Washington in the afternoon.

According to the Hermiston Police Department, there was a ping on the mother's phone in the Hermiston area around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

An alert went out through the regional system at about 3 p.m., prompting multiple calls from people who believed they saw the vehicle.

Oregon still not tracking at-risk student success

SALEM (AP) — A report from the Secretary of State found that Oregon hasn't followed up on recommendations to better track the progress of the state's most at-risk students.

The report, released Wednesday, said the Oregon Department of Education

only made partial progress on three of the 15 recommendations to improve education for students in online or alternative schools. It made no progress on the remaining 12.

The department agreed to implement all 15 recommendations by summer of 2019. The recommendations came from a 2017 audit, which found little oversight over the performance of Oregon's alternative and online schools. Nearly half of the state's high school dropouts attend these schools.

The Department of Education said staffing challenges and federal requirements were behind the delay.

Acting Secretary of State Leslie Cummings called the department's lack of progress "disappointing."

Prineville hospital. The car was destroyed in the crash.

No one else was in the car.

Prosecutor: Tax dodger now dodging prison sentence

PORTLAND (AP) — A prominent tax dodger who was supposed to surrender to prison earlier this month is now accused of dodging his 10-year prison sentence by failing to turn himself in to the federal Bureau of Prisons as ordered.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Winston ShROUT was supposed to start serving his sentence March 4 after the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals denied his request to remain out of custody pending his appeal.

The appeals court upheld U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones' ruling that ShROUT poses a danger if he were to remain in the community.

The next day, federal authorities issued a warrant for ShROUT's arrest.

ShROUT was sentenced Oct. 22 after a federal jury convicted him of six misdemeanor counts of willful failure to file tax returns and 13 felony counts of producing, presenting and shipping fictitious financial instruments.

Oregon Legislators consider raising their annual pay by 63 percent

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon lawmakers are considering raising their annual pay by nearly \$20,000 in an effort to attract more qualified candidates to the Legislature.

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick is behind the measure to bump pay by 63 percent. The Democrat from

Portland told Oregon Public Broadcasting that low pay screens out diverse candidates "who really should be represented here."

She admitted that lawmakers have been hesitant to consider a pay increase because it might not play well politically.

Legislators currently make \$31,200 — that's after a recent pay raise that went into effect February 1st.

It's unclear where they'll get the funds for another salary bump. State budgeters are already asking for cuts across nearly all state agencies and are scrambling to come up with extra cash to fully fund K-12 education.

Early wildfire burns in Oregon

SALEM (AP) — Firefighters were mopping up Wednesday after battling one of the first wildfires this year in Oregon.

The fire, which jumped the Santiam River in windy conditions, burned around 190 acres next to Highway 22, 25 miles southeast of Salem.

No structures were lost or injuries reported.

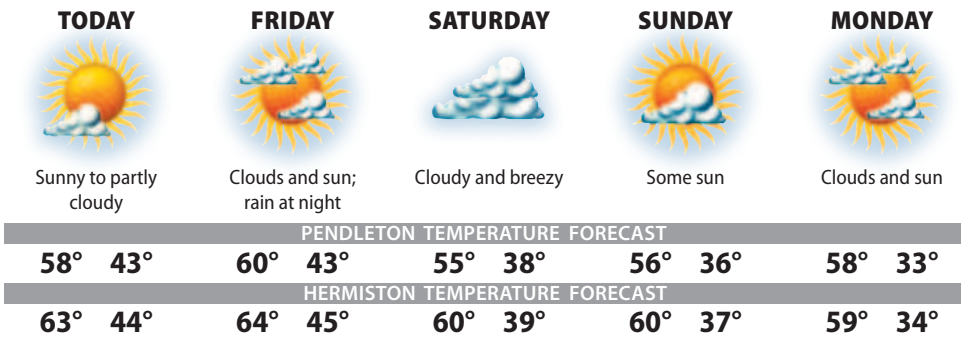
"Some folks seem surprised to see this fire on the landscape in March, but as firefighters, we are trained to consider the conditions, not the calendar," said Incident Commander Blake Ellis.

Firefighters late Wednesday were locating and extinguishing hot spots, and falling snags.

The blaze had earlier been estimated at 60 acres but ground crews walking the line with a GPS obtained more accurate information. There was no significant fire growth since Tuesday, when the fire was reported.

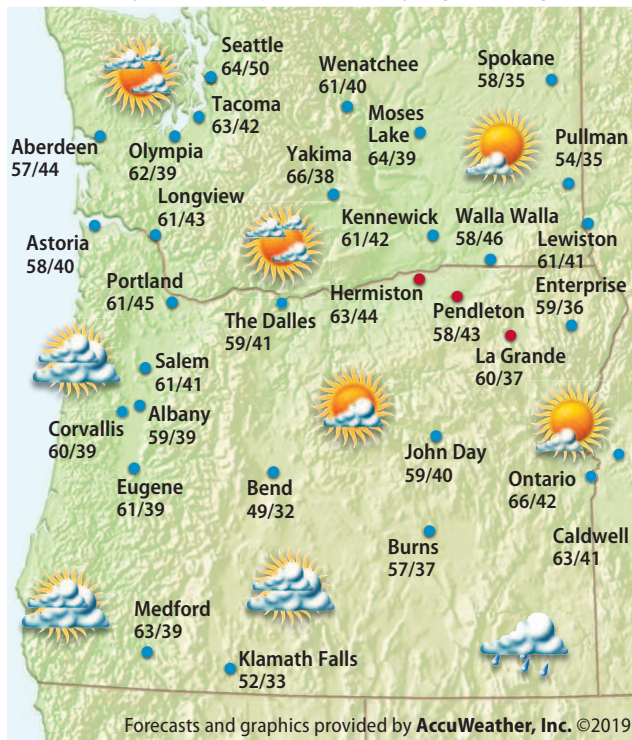
About 85 people were involved in fighting the fire using ground crews, a helicopter, dozers and fire engines.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



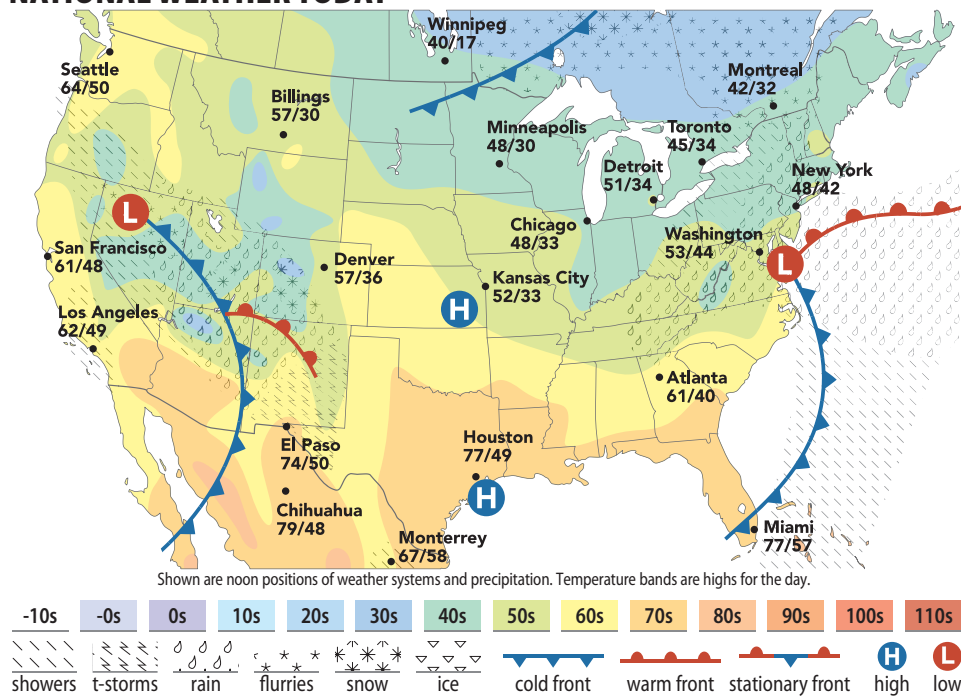
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	62°	29°	
Normals	56°	36°	
Records	75° (1911)	18° (1913)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.39"		
Normal month to date	0.87"		
Year to date	5.24"		
Last year to date	3.27"		
Normal year to date	3.38"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	63°	27°	
Normals	59°	35°	
Records	76° (1947)	19° (1943)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.10"		
Normal month to date	0.61"		
Year to date	3.49"		
Last year to date	2.06"		
Normal year to date	2.85"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	W 3-6	Fri. WSW 4-8	
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	WNW 6-12	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:57 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:08 p.m.		
Moonrise today	8:14 p.m.		
Moonset today	7:43 a.m.		
Last	New	First	Full
Mar 27	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Goodyear, Ariz. Low -13° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



CORRECTIONS

A photo of Hermiston's HOSA students that appeared on Page A1 of the March 20 edition of the East Oregonian was incorrectly attributed. The photo was contributed by Jazmin Macias.

The story "Local colleges lobby legislators for state funding" on Page A1 of the March 20 edition misstated the figures attached to the governor's budget. The governor's proposal for the community college support fund is \$543 million that would be boosted to \$646.7 million with additional investment by the Legislature. The governor's proposal for the public university operations and student support fund is \$736.9 million that would be increased to \$856.9 million with additional investment by the Legislature.

The East Oregonian ran incorrect information in the public safety log on Page A5 of the March 20 edition. The entry should have stated a male reported the manager of the Simplot facility at 29800 Jones Scott Road, Umatilla, assaulted him.

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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