

After baby’s death, mother calls for changes at Salem Hospital

The Associated Press

SALEM — An Oregon mother who watched her 7-week-old baby die of meningitis is calling for changes at a hospital from which the child was initially discharged.

Ginger McCall said her daughter was discharged from Salem Hospital’s emergency room with what staff said was a routine infection, the Salem *Statesman-Journal* reported.

Hours later, the girl’s vital signs crashed. She died two days later.

“My hope is that something good can come out of this,” McCall said. “What I want the most is to raise awareness so this doesn’t happen to anyone else.”

Salem Hospital officials cited privacy concerns in declining comment on the death.

“This is a heartbreaking loss, and Salem Health offers its deepest condolences,” officials said in statement.

McCall is an attorney and state official who works as Oregon’s public record advocate.

Her daughter, Eviana Rose Quintero-McCall, came down with a fever on March 15, McCall said. She



This photo taken March 22, 2019, shows Ginger McCall whose 7-week-old daughter, Eviana Quintero-McCall, died of meningitis on Sunday, March 17, 2019, after being discharged from the Salem Hospital emergency room with a fever.

cried a weak, moaning cry, which McCall later learned is a sign of Group B strep meningitis.

McCall and her mother-in-law rushed the baby to Salem Hospital. She was given Tylenol and sent home.

McCall wishes that she would have known to insist on a meningitis test, she said, or that she had driven to OHSU Doern-

becher Children’s Hospital in Portland, where the infection might have been recognized.

“There’s a stereotype of a hysterical, panicked, first-time mom, and that probably affected the situation,” McCall said.

She told hospital staff she tested positive for Strep B while pregnant.

Expectant mothers are typically tested for the

Group B strep infection and treated with antibiotics. However, the bacterial infection can be passed to babies.

A few hours after leaving the emergency room, McCall brought her baby to her pediatrician.

After the baby threw up, the doctor told her to rush back to the emergency room and he called to alert hospital staff.



Statesman Journal via AP/Anna Reed
This photo taken March 22, 2019, shows Ginger McCall holding an ultrasound image of her 7-week-old daughter, Eviana Quintero-McCall.

A flurry of activity followed and the baby was transported by ambulance to OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. She died March 17.

“They did their very best, but by the time she got there, it was just too late,” McCall said.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4,100 cases of bacterial meningitis, and 500 deaths, are reported on average every year.

Babies can contract meningitis at birth, through the air from people coughing and sneezing, or from contaminated food.

McCall wants parents to know the warning signs.

“I hope they will strongly advocate for themselves and their children,” she said.

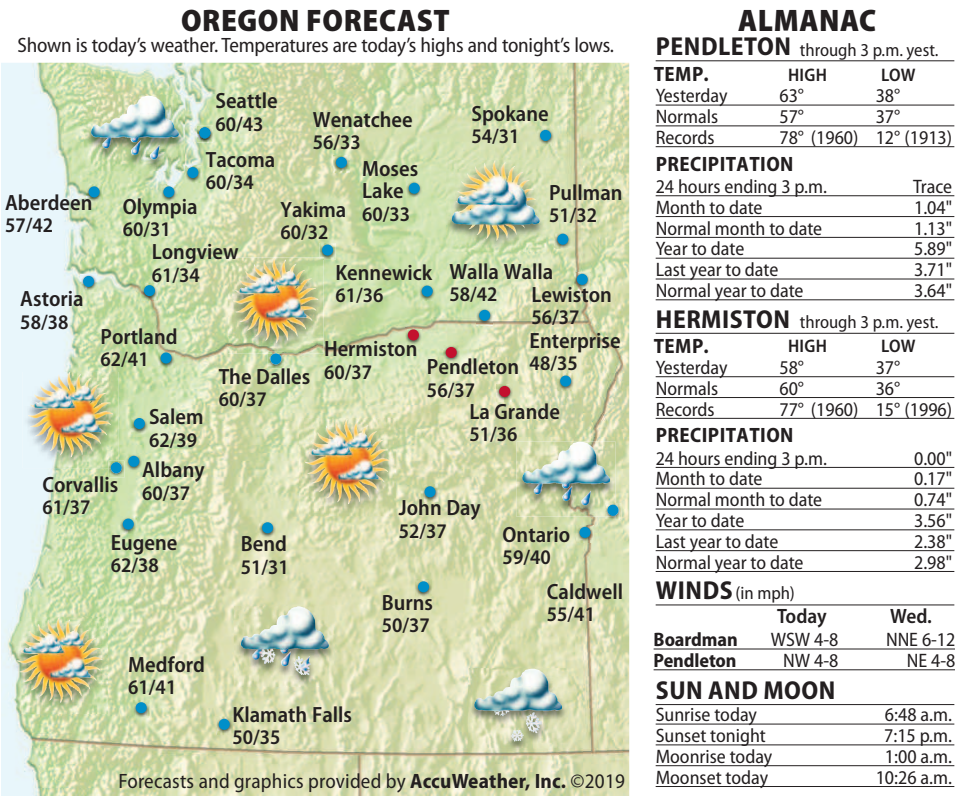
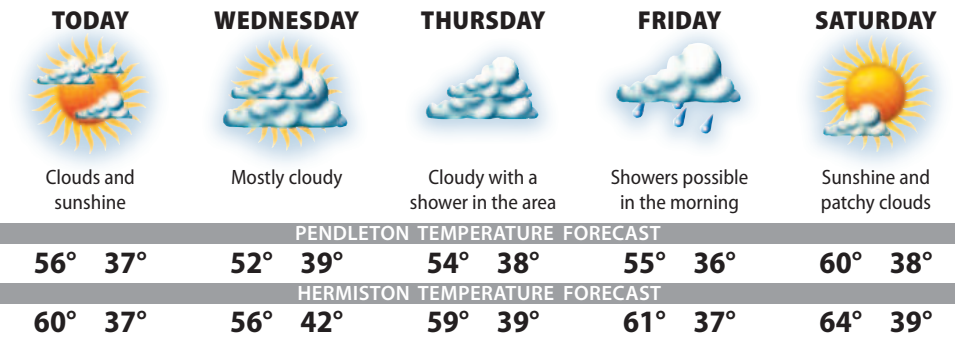
“I hope they will appreciate every moment they have with their children.”

Her main hope is for hospital staff to become better educated about meningitis symptoms, she said, and for hospitals to change their protocol.

“I would like if for them to be trained to recognize the signs of this because it is so catastrophic and it happens so fast,” she said.

“Every minute matters.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

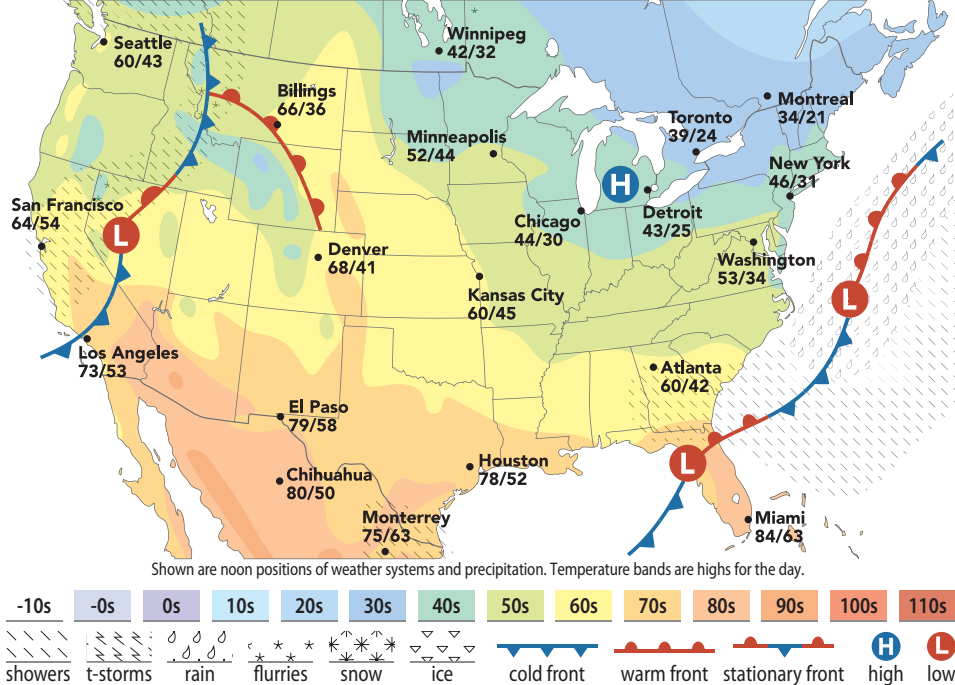


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 88° in Laredo, Texas Low -2° in Amasa, Mich.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Man to change plea in killing of Rainier police chief

PORTLAND (AP) — Eight years after he was accused of shooting the police chief in Rainier during a scuffle at a car stereo store, Daniel Butts is scheduled to change his plea and be sentenced.

The Oregonian/Oregon-Live reports Butts is scheduled to appear in Columbia County Circuit Court in the death of Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter on Tuesday.

Butts, 29, of Kalama, Washington, was arrested on

Jan. 5, 2011, after police say he took Painter's gun away and shot him in the head.

Butts is expected to plead guilty to murder and guilty except for insanity to other charges in exchange for a sentence of at least 41 years before he can be eligible for parole. He's being held at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

Inmate caught after rooftop jailbreak

GRANTS PASS (AP) — A Grants Pass man is back in jail after authorities say he escaped through the

facility's ventilation system.

The Mail Tribune reports Justin Denney, 26, made it to the roof of the Josephine County Jail after entering the ventilation system through a hole in a janitor closet, authorities said.

Josephine County Under-sheriff Travis Snyder says once in the ventilation system, Denney was able to get to the roof of the jail.

After sheriff's deputies spotted Denney on the roof, Snyder says Denney jumped down and ran. Sheriff's deputies and Grants Pass police captured Denney in a Walmart parking lot next to the jail.

CORRECTION:

An article about vaccine exemption bills in the Oregon Legislature that appeared on Page A1 of the March 21 edition misidentified Gov. Kate Brown. The East Oregonian regrets the error.

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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