

Heavy rains create flooding in Washington, Oregon and Idaho

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Officials in the adjacent college towns of Pullman, Washington, and Moscow, Idaho, are cleaning up after heavy rains produced flooding.

The *Moscow-Pullman Daily News* reported that flood waters poured into homes and businesses starting on Tuesday afternoon. Pullman Fire Marshal Chris Wehrung said water damaged several businesses and forced some evacuations.

The flooding of Missouri Flat Creek required the use of a city front-end loader to rescue two or three people who were standing on tables inside a laundromat, and first responders helped about a half dozen people evacuate a fitness studio, Wehrung said.

Pullman City Supervisor Adam Lincoln said water levels started to recede on Tuesday night.

Across the state line in Idaho, Paradise Creek in Moscow was running a foot above flood stage at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service. Several homes were damaged.



People look on as floodwaters from the South Fork of the Palouse River flow into a pedestrian bridge in downtown Pullman, Wash., on Tuesday.

AP Photo/Pete Caster

Resident Eric Clippinger said the flood waters damaged the utility room in his home, and swept away landscaping and some tools.

"That's why I have flood insurance," he said.

Meanwhile, heavy rains produced flooding

in the Eugene, Oregon, area. About 500 people were evacuated from their homes on Tuesday.

The evacuations followed moderate flooding Sunday and Monday along the Coast Fork of the Willamette and Row rivers near Eugene, *The Regis-*

ter-Guard reported.

The Lane County sheriff's office urged area residents to stay off the roads.

More than 4.3 inches of rain has fallen in Eugene since Thursday, including a record-breaking 2.34 inches on Sunday.

Brown floats tobacco tax increase to fund Medicaid

Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown plans to pay down the state's Medicaid shortfall through a \$2 tax increase on tobacco products, plus an additional tax on e-cigarettes and other vaping products.

The governor told the House Committee on Revenue Wednesday that the tax "will provide long-term sustainable funding," while also encouraging people to quit smoking.



Brown

Oregon has one of the lowest cigarette taxes in the country, at \$1.33 per 20-pack of cigarettes.

The proposed tax increase, which would have to be approved by the Legislature, would have customers paying \$3.33 in state taxes, some of the highest in the nation.

Brown said the plan will bring in \$346 million every two years. She plans to earmark 10% of the funds for tobacco cessation programs, with the rest going to the state's Medicaid fund.

Oregon is facing a \$950 million Medicaid funding gap, in part because of a drop in federal funding. The

state will pay off half its debt with a recently approved tax on health care providers. The proposed tobacco tax will help cover some of the remaining costs.

The plan would also impose the state's first tax on e-cigarettes, calling for a 65% tax on the wholesale price as a way to combat rising rates of vaping among teens.

Supporters say that the tax will not only bring in more money for the state, but also decrease long-term health care costs related

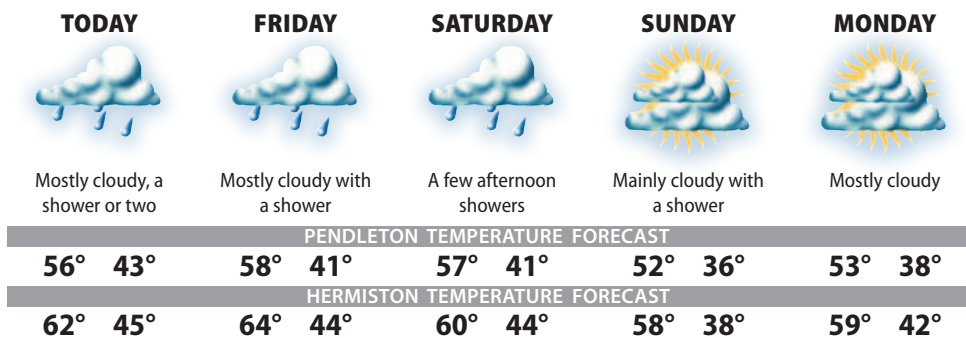
to smoking. The Oregon Health Authority estimates tobacco use costs Oregonians \$2.5 billion a year.

"Tobacco is one of the highest drivers of the health care system," said Christopher Friend, with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

"This tax would reduce the number of lives lost and save our health care system millions of dollars over time."

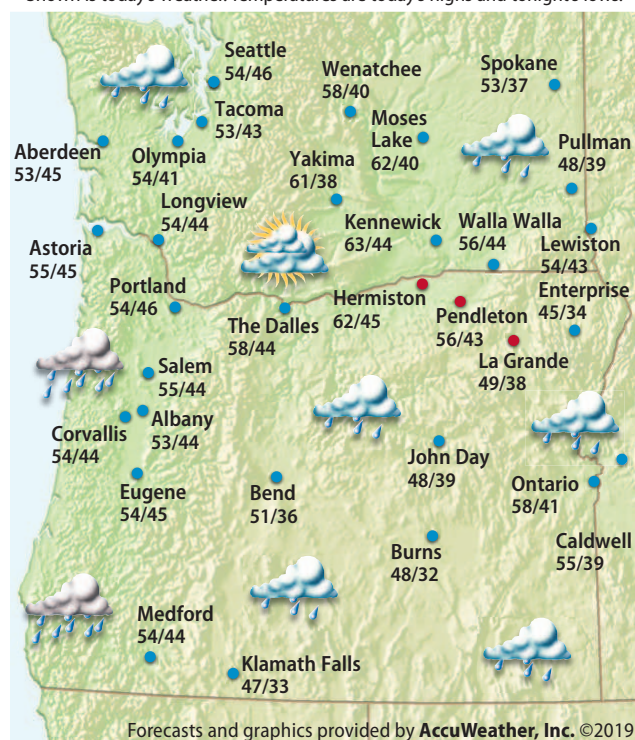
Business groups slammed the idea, saying that high taxes would hurt small businesses and only push consumers to find the products online or on the black market.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



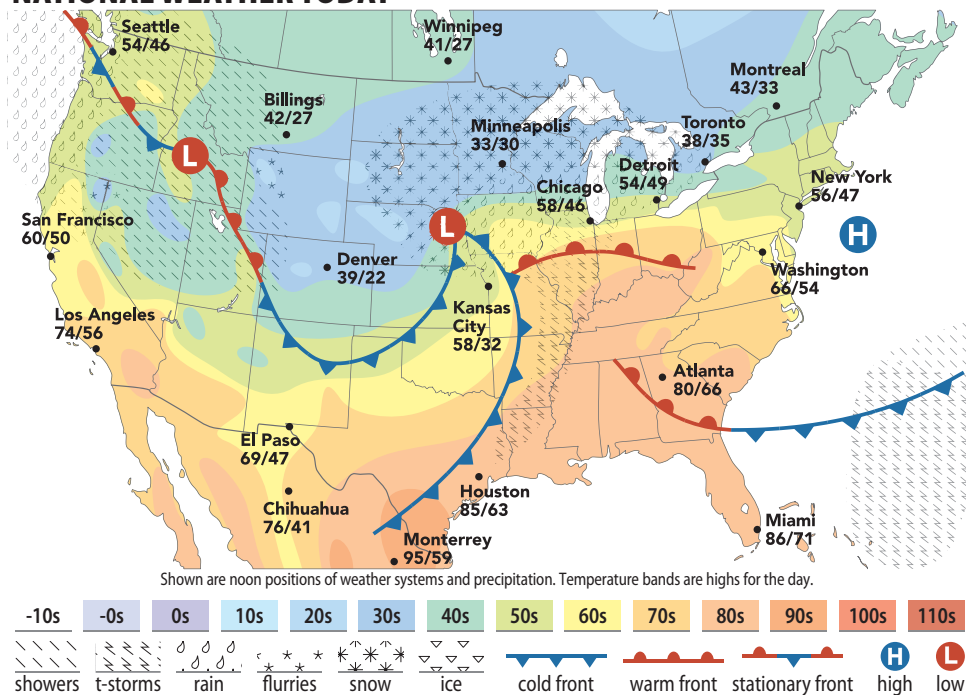
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	52°	40°	
Normals	60°	38°	
Records	87° (1925)	24° (2010)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	1.04"		
Normal month to date	0.44"		
Year to date	7.12"		
Last year to date	4.19"		
Normal year to date	4.40"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	57°	43°	
Normals	63°	39°	
Records	80° (1985)	22° (1933)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	0.21"		
Normal month to date	0.24"		
Year to date	3.80"		
Last year to date	2.84"		
Normal year to date	3.35"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Fri.		
Boardman	WSW 10-20	WSW 6-12	
Pendleton	WSW 10-20	W 7-14	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:17 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:36 p.m.		
Moonrise today	10:35 a.m.		
Moonset today	1:26 a.m.		
First	Full	Last	New
Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26	May 4

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Del Rio, Texas Low 12° in Truckee, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Appeals Court won't review Oregon's non-unanimous jury law

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals has upheld the state's non-unanimous jury law, when it declined to reverse a Portland judge's decision not to grant a new trial to a black man convicted in a split jury verdict.

The *Oregonian*/Oregon-Live reports that while the Appeals Court said Olan Jermaine Williams raised "serious concerns" about his 10-2 conviction in 2016, it ruled Wednesday it couldn't review the case.

Williams was found guilty in Multnomah County Circuit Court of

sodomizing an unconscious man, and was sentenced to 8 years in prison.

Afterward, the lone black juror assigned to Williams' trial spoke publicly, claiming she had voted not guilty and felt that the majority of the jury disregarded her view. An attorney for Williams filed for a new trial based on the argument that all people have implicit biases, especially against people of a different race.

For decades, Oregon juries — and those in only one other state, Louisiana — have been permitted to convict most felony defendants

with a 10-2 vote. A petition before the Supreme Court claims the statute deprives some defendants of equal protection under the law.

Judge Bronson James didn't grant Williams a new trial, writing that his defense hadn't presented any evidence that implicit racial bias motivated the jury.

But James in his ruling all but said that an effort to squelch nonwhite voices was part of the motivation for creating Oregon's non-unanimous jury system, which voters added to the state's constitution in 1934.

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